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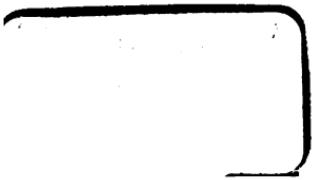
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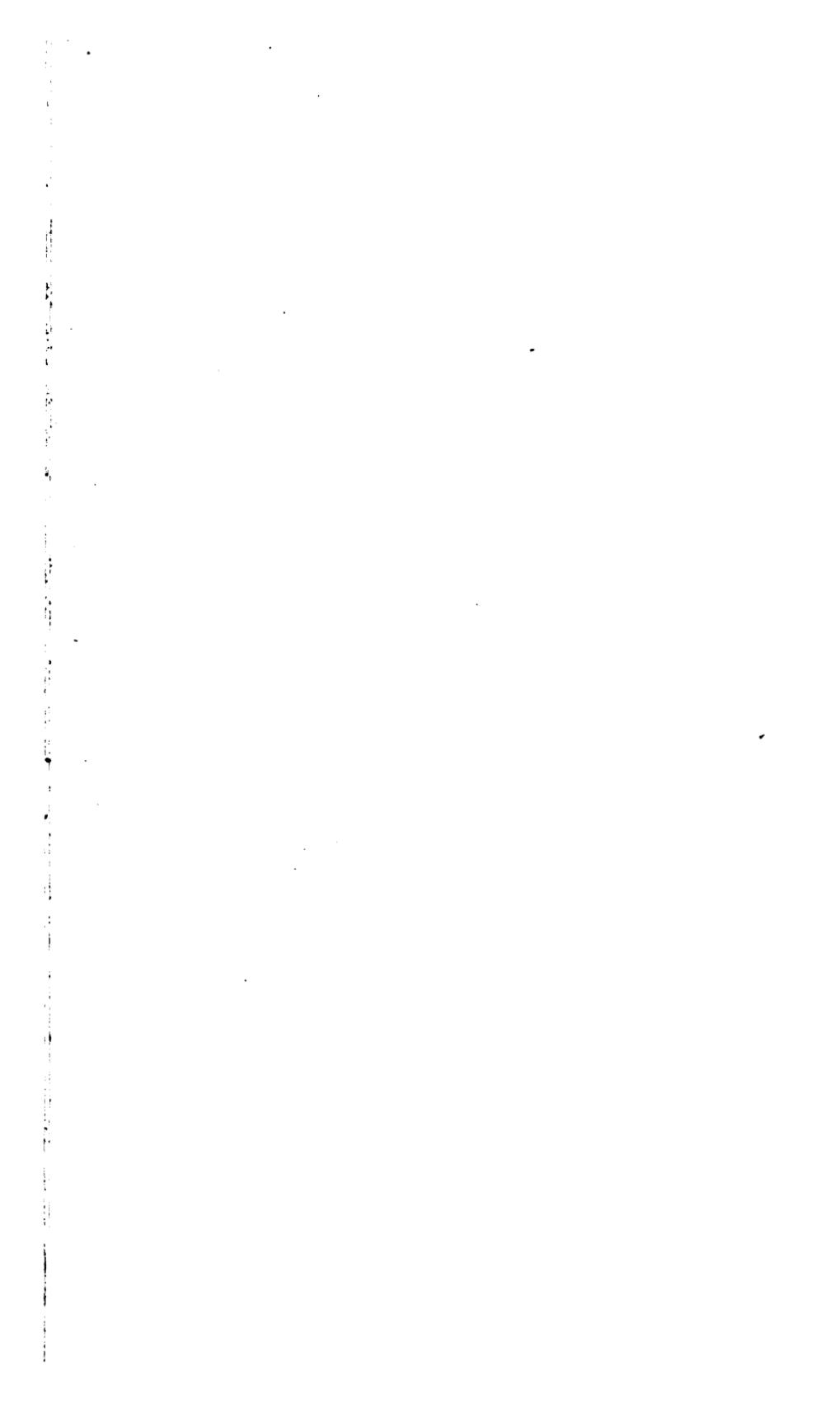
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**EDWARD PRINCE of WALES.**

THE  
H I S T O R Y  
O F  
EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES,  
COMMONLY TERMED  
THE BLACK PRINCE,  
ELDEST SON OF  
KING EDWARD THE THIRD.

With a short View of the Reigns of  
EDWARD I. EDWARD II. and EDWARD III.

A N D  
A summary Account of the Institution of the  
Order of the Garter.

ARMA VIRUMQUE CANO.

VIRG.

*A. Michnall*

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. Bew, N° 28, Paternoster-row.

M D C C L X X V I .





TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

## GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES.

SIR,

PERMIT a faithful subject of your Royal Father to dedicate to your Royal Highness a work which seems peculiarly to claim your patronage. To whom can a detail of the virtues and heroic qualities of the great Prince of Wales with more propriety be addressed, than to a descendent who bears his titles, and promises to inherit his virtues and accomplishments?

Nor can I give a greater proof of my loyalty to your Parents, and respect to your Royal Highness, than by presenting to you a model (though imperfect the sculpture) from which, if your Royal Highness copies your future life, you

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cannot fail of securing the love and duty  
of the people over whom you are born  
to reign.

May the genius of the place \* where  
yesterday you celebrated your natal day,  
inspire your Royal Highness with the  
elevated sentiments and true dignity of  
the great Founder and his god-like Son :  
and when, after a length of years, you  
shall be called to fill the throne of your  
Ancestors, may your Royal Highness  
meet with the unfeigned esteem and  
extensive renown they did.

I am,

With due Respect,

Your Royal Highness's

Most Humble, and

Obedient Servant,

August  
13th, 1776.

The AUTHOR.

\* Windsor Castle.

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES,  
COMMONLY TERMED  
THE BLACK PRINCE.

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## INTRODUCTION.

THE Prince, whose history is the principal subject of the annexed sheets, appears to have been graced with every quality natural or acquired which constitute the real Hero: to these were superadded the more important ones that form the virtuous man. *Take him for all in all*, estimate his worth from this union of characters, and we may safely pronounce, that England, or indeed any other

other country, never gave birth to a person whose actions more justly claimed the notice; or deserved the encomiums of Historians. The pen of a Livy or a Tacitus could alone do justice to the relation: mine is very unequal to the task; but as there is no detached history of this justly celebrated Prince extant, that written by Mr. Collins some years ago excepted, which is so diffused, so filled with tedious extracts, and so larded with genealogies of persons little connected with the story, that though it contains many interesting particulars of the Prince's life, it affords not that entertainment which the Readers of this age expect to find, whilst they gratify their curiosity, and store their minds with knowledge, I have attempted to compile it in a more regular and pleasing manner, making, as I proceed, such reflections as naturally

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rally arise from the subject. It is true, that the transactions of this Prince are so connected with those of his royal Father, that whoever reads the reign of that King in the history of England, cannot be unacquainted with the general events of his life; yet as they are there only given by way of episode (if I may so term it) many of the incidents to be found in the annexed history are necessarily omitted or contracted.

The memoirs of great and renowned persons should be delivered to posterity in the most explicit manner; that whilst they amuse and instruct succeeding ages, they may raise in them a spirit of emulation, and prompt them to act with equal propriety in similar circumstances. In the annals of what nation shall we find a character so fraught with every

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requisite to answer these purposes? where meet with so perfect an example as the Black Prince, whose life, from the brilliancy of it, was one continued scene of instruction?

From the various characters here exhibited, but more particularly from that of the Hero of the work, may be drawn various precepts: the Prince and the subject may at the same time receive lessons for the regulation of their conduct; to the former they teach a true elevation of mind, softened by affability—firmness in the prosecution of war---punctuality in fulfilling engagements---patience under adverse fortune, or moderation when crowned with success---and that general propriety of deportment which will ensure them the affections of their people, with the applause of the world. To the latter, due subordination

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nation--filial respect--conjugal tenderness--that humility which exalts--and that piety which can alone produce genuine fortitude. The Warrior also might learn from the battles herein described, that success does not always depend on numbers; but that a few undaunted troops may withstand a formidable army, if unanimity and an attachment to their leader be not wanting.

How futile the modern observation, that it is not possible for a Sovereign or his Delegates so to act as to gain universal approbation! The principal characters before us (I speak of King Edward whilst in the vigour of his life, before he was incapacitated by age and infirmities from attending to the interest of his people) prove, that a propriety of conduct will ensure unbounded respect and applause: but to effectuate

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effectuate this, it is necessary that a Prince should not give himself blindly up to the direction of a few, by which means the actions of the most faithful of his subjects are too often viewed through a false medium; his smiles, like the invigorating rays of the sun, should be unconfined, and merit alone the passport to his favour. The prudence of the Prince of Wales and his great Father prompted them to avoid this destructive partiality; whilst his weaker Son, who lost too soon the benefit of his noble Sire's instructions and example, fell into the error he had so wisely shunned, and found in a premature death the fatal effects of it. The striking contrast between the Prince of Wales and his Son King Richard, and the different estimation they were held in by the people, are convincing proofs that it is the conduct of the Prince, not the elevated station,

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station, that attracts respect. The activity, prudence, integrity, temperance, and manly dignity of the one, procured him unfeigned homage whilst living, and the purest blasts of Fame when the fates had severed his thread of life; whereas indolence, dissipation, and extravagance, with a fondness for trivial amusements, and an attachment to degrading associates, brought on the other contempt through the greatest part of his life, and a cold transient pity, when the tragic scene was closed.

How firm the throne which is supported, like that of King Edward, by the subjects love. Almost every other reign of the English Monarchs was disturbed by intestine divisions; but, charmed with his penetration, fortitude, munificence, and courtesy, his people were ever ready to sacrifice their

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their own happiness, when needful, to their Sovereign's glory: every breast glowed with emulation, and every heart panted to give him proofs of their affection: when he took the field, the meanest of his soldiers served from sentiment, and fought for reputation; whilst those who remained at home cheerfully contributed to the expences of the war. Such are the happy effects which will assuredly proceed from a Prince's endeavours to gain the affections of his people; a reciprocation must follow. The English are naturally well-disposed, and may be led by gentle methods to give unbounded proofs of their duty. Their steady attachment to King Edward, during so long a reign, proves that the fickleness of disposition imputed to them is, in a great degree, imaginary, and depends much on the qualifications and conduct of their ruler. The contemplation

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contemplation of this reign, allowing for the propensity of the age to war and sanguinary pursuits, which learning and a cultivation of the gentler accomplishments have now greatly abated, will always be of use to succeeding Princes; it cannot fail of exciting in them a wish to imitate, as far as possible, the shining and virtuous qualities of this great King and his heroic Son, and to attain the same honour and respect they acquired by them.

Latter ages seem to have lost even the idea of the romantic spirit, many instances of which are here recorded, that constituted so capital a part of chivalry; and though sometimes ridiculously exerted in defence of a Lady's beauty, or in equally unimportant crusades, yet, as it caused an exertion of gallantry, valour, generosity, and many other virtues, was certainly laudable,

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dable, and deserves not the general censure it has received. The admonitions given to the Knights of the Garter at their installation were framed when this dignity of sentiment was in its full force; and though occasions seldom offer now for the exercise of every article of them, yet the general tendency, if recollect ed and made a rule in all the concerns of life, would support the companions above every degradation of their honour, and enable them to preserve unblemished the dignity of Knighthood. From a neglect of this observance, how often do we see the sacred badges of true nobility disgraced by a compliance with the manners of a servile age, and the subl iate purposes of the great Institutor counteracted? *Virtus Nobilitas sola*: It is Virtue that can alone ennoble: If this axiom wanted confirmation, the character of the first Knight of the Garter,

## INTRODUCTION. xv.

Garter, the Hero of the following pages, would establish it ; for in him were all the graces and virtues concentrated, and in him may the associates of that noble order behold a model, from which if they fashion their sentiments and actions, they will acquire, as he did, immortal renown.

As my chief view has been to make this work entertaining as well as instructive, I have not interrupted the narrative with references to the original authors, the usual methods in compilations, but by which means the attention is every minute drawn off from the relation ; nor have I been particular in noting the year in which every event happened : suffice it to say, that in the first case, the extracts are selected from the most authentic accounts ; and in the latter, that the dates of the most material transactions

## xvi INTRODUCTION.

transactions are inserted. A knowledge of the particular year in which a town surrendered, or a skirmish happened, can be of little importance to the readers of this age ; those who wish to gain more minute information, I would refer to the histories of England, where they are particularized ; the general Historian being obliged, in recording a series of events through different reigns, to attend to this distinction.

It is for this reason that I have omitted the dates of the battles, skirmishes, &c.

and other transactions, from my history.

I could give a history of the military operations of the French, Spanish, & English, during the reigns of Louis XIV., Philip V., Charles II., James II., & William III., but it would be of little interest.

It would be equally uninteresting to give a history of the military operations of the French, Spanish, & English, during the reigns of Louis XV., Philip V., Charles III., & Charles IV.

It would be of little interest to give a history of the military operations of the French, Spanish, & English, during the reigns of Louis XVI., Philip VI., Charles VII., & Charles VIII.

It would be of little interest to give a history of the military operations of the French, Spanish, & English, during the reigns of Louis XVII., Philip VII., Charles IX., & Charles X.

THE

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES.

**N**O name appears to hold a more respectable place in the list of English Monarchs than that of Edward the First, who possessed every quality to render him a politic and warlike King. Whilst Prince of Wales, he gave great proofs of that courage and penetration, which made him dreaded by his enemies and respected by his subjects, when called to the throne. He supported his father Henry the Third against his powerful Barons; who, being too justly incensed by the King's profusion to his favourites, attachment to strangers, and variable conduct, were continually in

A                      arms

arms against him : by his prudent interposition the young Prince averted their animosity, and rendered the conclusion of that Monarch's reign tolerably tranquil. He signalized himself by uncommon acts of valour during his residence in the Holy Land ; to which he was led by that enthusiastic propensity for Croisades, so prevalent in those early ages. In his absence his father, unable any longer to wield the sceptre, or to curb the licentiousness of his Nobles, which began again to shew itself, called aloud for his gallant son's return ; but, before his arrival, he sunk under the cares of government and the infirmities of age, after a reign of fifty-six years, the longest to be met with in the English annals.

Young Edward finding that his presence was not immediately required in England, continued a considerable time in France. As he passed near Chalons in Burgundy, he was challenged by the Prince of that country to a tournament, for which preparations were

were then making. Edward, who delighted in these martial exercises, accepted the invitation; and rejoiced at an opportunity of acquiring honour and renown among so many gallant personages. But he and his retinue so far excelled the French Knights, that it excited their jealousy, and created so much animosity as to produce a quarrel. The mock engagement was instantly turned into a real one; and though the English bravely withstood the superior numbers of their enemies and remained unbroken, yet it could not be terminated till much blood was spilt in the silly contest.

On his return to England, Edward applied himself to the re-establishment of his kingdom; correcting those disorders and civil commotions which the unstable administration of his father had suffered to take root in every part of government. At the same time he laid down a plan of policy equally generous and prudent. Whilst he made it the rule of his own conduct to ob-

serve (except on some extraordinary occasions) the privileges secured to his people by Magna Charta, he endeavoured to diminish the arbitrary and enormous power of the great Barons, those oppressors of the inferior ranks, by an exact distribution of justice, and a rigid execution of the laws. From this laudable exertion of his authority the face of the kingdom soon became changed; order took place of confusion; and those various kinds of malefactors who over-run the whole nation, and lived by rapine and plunder, committing the most horrid murders and depredations, were suppressed as far as the ferocity and licentiousness of the times would allow. It is true indeed, that urged by his necessities he made some violent attempts on the liberties of the people; but being opposed, he was not inattentive to the dictates of prudence, and by making timely submissions secured his honour. By his great abilities he annexed the principality of Wales to his crown; and, having overcome the Scots in many battles,  
was

was on the point of reducing that kingdom to the same situation, when death put a stop to his conquests. But what redounded more to his honour than his many victories, was the incessant application he bestowed on the amendment of the laws; which had languished in former reigns, but which Edward maintained in great vigour, and left much improved to posterity. These excellent regulations, of more importance to a kingdom than the acquisition of territory, gained him the appellation of the English Justinian; and will ensure to his name respect and honour when the laurels of the conqueror are faded.

His son, Edward the Second, found the people prepossessed in his favour, by their veneration of his great father: but his mild and gentle disposition was not suited to the turbulence of that age. Steadiness and resolution, tempered by moderation, are necessary endowments (and at that time they were peculiarly so) for the person destined to

guide the car of empire ; left, like an unskilful Phaeton, by keeping too near the fiery tract of despotism on the one hand, or the equally destructive path of timid relaxation on the other, he wanders like the son of Phœbus far from the beaten way, and shares his fate. This easiness of temper in Edward threw him into the hands of favourites, to whom he implicitly gave up his will, and on whom he bestowed honours and riches with an unbounded profusion.

The first of these was Piers Gavaston, the son of a Gascon knight of some distinction, who had honourably served the late King ; and who, as a reward for his merits, had obtained an establishment for his son in the family of the Prince of Wales. This young Cavalier soon insinuated himself into the affections of his master by his agreeable behaviour, and by supplying him with all those innocent though frivolous amusements which suited his capacity and inclinations. Endowed with the utmost elegance of shape and

and person, conspicuous for a fine mien and easy carriage, expert in all warlike and gentle exercises, and celebrated for his wit, it is not much to be wondered at, if Edward gave up a heart, naturally disposed to friendship and confidence, to this accomplished young gentleman. His discerning father, Edward the First, apprehensive of the consequences, banished Gavaston the kingdom; and on his death-bed made the Prince promise never to recall him. Unmindful of this solemn protestation, no sooner did Edward find himself his own master, than he sent for his favourite; and so great was his impatience to testify to the world his regard for him, that before his arrival at court he created him Earl of Cornwall: he soon after bestowed on him immense possessions, and married him to his own niece.

However unapprehensive persons, even of the highest rank, determined on the gratification of their favourite passions may be, yet the speculative reader of history cannot

avoid remarking, that such breaches of solemn compacts, though only verbal ones, are ever attended with fatal consequences. Thus Edward, by indulging the friendly effusions of his heart to an unwarrantable extreme, on a rapacious favourite, in despite of his father's dying injunctions and his own repeated asseverations, roused the dormant spirit of the haughty and restless Barons, and involved himself in contests which rendered his whole reign unquiet, and at length brought him to a tragical end.

This partiality to Gavaston served only to excite the jealousy of the Barons, and after many contests ended in his destruction. But no sooner was he made prisoner, and, according to the savage manners of the age, immediately executed, than the King, accustomed to controul, looked around him for a proper person to supply his place. Hugh Le Despencer, a young Englishman of a noble family, who likewise possessed all those external accomplishments of person and address

address fitted to engage the weak mind of Edward, attracted his notice, and was received into the same degree of confidence and favour. A similar train of incidents to those which had attended the attachment of Edward to Gavaston now took place; and by the same unavoidable progression led, after some years, to as fatal a conclusion. The King was addicted to no vice, but having a distaste to all serious business, and, conscious of his inability to hold the reins of government, he gave this minion also unlimited power, and set no bounds to his favours. Le Despencer, equally haughty and rapacious with his predecessor, drew on himself the animosity of the Barons: they consequently had recourse to arms, and procured by force from Edward a sentence of perpetual exile against him. But a reverse of fortune enabled the King to recall his favourite, and fix him in the same plenitude of power, till the following incident brought about the ruin of both.

A dispute arising between Edward and Charles the Fair, king of France, concerning

ing some affairs relating to the province of Guienne, his queen Isabella was sent over to endeavour to settle it with her brother. While she was making some progress in the negociation, Charles, increasing his demands, started a new proposition ; he insisted, that king Edward should appear at his court, to do homage for the territories he held under him. No method appeared to evade this demand, yet many difficulties occurred to prevent a compliance with it. Le Despencer, by whom the King was implicitly governed, had been engaged in many quarrels with the Queen, who aspired to the same authority, and on that account continually opposed all his measures. Though this artful Princess on her leaving England had taken care to dissemble her animosity, yet Le Despencer, perfectly acquainted with her sentiments, was unwilling to attend the King to Paris, as he was apprehensive of being exposed to insults in a kingdom, where it was natural to conclude Isabella would meet with credit and support. Nor was he less alarmed by his

his apprehensions from allowing the King to make the journey alone ; as that easy Prince might possibly during his absence fall under some other influence. The same objection appeared to his remaining in England where he was so generally hated, without the protection of the royal authority : these perplexities bred difficulties and delays, which would have obstructed the negociation, had not Isabella proposed that her husband should resign his dominions in France to his son, now thirteen years of age ; and that the Prince should come to Paris, to do the homage which every vassal owed to his superior lord. This expedient, so consonant to Le Despencer's wishes, but proposed by the Queen from views equally destructive to the favourite, was immediately complied with ; and young Edward sent to Paris.

Queen Isabella, on her arrival in France, had found there a great number of English fugitives, adherents to the late Earl of Lancaster,

Lancaster\*, who had been defeated and slain in one of those battles between Edward and his Barons, occasioned by the King's partiality to his favourites. Their mutual antipathy to Le Despencer on this account soon gave rise to a secret friendship and correspondence between them and that Prince. The nobleman most particularly distinguished by Isabella was young Roger Mortimer, a potent Baron in the Welsh Marches, who had escaped from the Tower, after being imprisoned by Edward; and who had brought to

\* This Earl of Lancaster was one of the most powerful noblemen that England ever gave birth to: he constantly employed this power in reducing the prerogatives of the crown, which were at that time greatly overgrown, and in securing the liberties and privileges of the people. But, after many contests, being taken prisoner by king Edward, he was condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. As the first prince of the blood this sentence was mitigated and changed into decapitation. An indulgence which was not however granted through compassion to the unhappy Earl, as his execution was attended with every disgraceful aggravation: he was cloathed in mean apparel, placed on a lean horse without a bridle, and conveyed through Pontefract, with a hood upon his head, to an eminence about a mile from the town, where he was beheaded standing.

France

France as great a share of inveteracy against the minister as herself. This political union soon bred a connection of a more tender kind: the Queen could not behold the graces of this young Lord's person, and his engaging address, without feeling an unallowable warmth play about her heart. From being her confident and counsellor, he became her lover; and engaged her to sacrifice to the infatuating impulse every sentiment of honour and fidelity to her husband. Hating now the man whom she had injured, and whom she had never valued, she entered cordially into all Mortimer's conspiracies; and, having got into her hands the heir of the English monarchy, she resolved on the ruin of both the King and his favourites. She now prevailed on her brother to enter into her purposes: her court was daily full of the exiled Barons, and a correspondence was secretly carried on with the Malecontents in England.

When king Edward, informed of these alarming circumstances, required her speedy return

return with the Prince, she openly replied, That she never would set foot into the kingdom, till his minion was for ever removed from his presence and councils. This declaration procured her great popularity in England, palliated her treasonable enterprises, and rendered the people for the present inattentive to her unwarrantable connection with Mortimer. All king Edward's efforts were unequal to the conspiracies which were forming against him, both at home and abroad. Even his own brother the Earl of Kent, a virtuous but weak prince, was drawn in to give a sanction to the combination, for which the expulsion of Le Despencer was the only avowed pretext.

Isabella, having raised about three thousand troops, by the open assistance of the Count of Hainault, and the secret protection of her Brother, landed on the coast of Suffolk without opposition. Soon after her landing she was joined by many potent Barons, and marched to attack her Husband; but

but that Prince, being unable to rouse the citizens of London to a sense of their duty, or to raise an army, fled with precipitation into the West. He had no sooner discovered his weakness, by leaving the city, than the rage of the populace broke out without controul against him and his minister. They first plundered and then murdered all his adherents, at the same time entering into a formal association to put to death, without mercy, every one who should dare to oppose the enterprize of queen Isabella and the Prince.

The abandoned King was closely pursued to Bristol, from whence he passed over into Wales. As this was the place of his birth, and the people were prejudiced in his favour, from his being the first English Prince that bore their title, he hoped to be enabled there to make a stand. The eldest Le Despencer, the father of the favourite, lately created Earl of Winchester, who had shared with his son in Edward's favour and confidence,

was then governor of Bristol. He endeavoured to preserve that place for the King; but his garrison mutinied against him, and he was delivered into the hands of his enemies. This nobleman, who had nearly reached his ninetieth year, and who had been respected through all his past life for wisdom, valour, and integrity, was instantly condemned to death by the rebellious Barons. His sentence was executed with the greatest degree of ignominy; for after hanging on a gibbet his body was cut in pieces, and thrown to the dogs; and his head, being sent to Winchester, was exposed on a pole to the insults of the populace.

King Edward, disappointed in his expectations of succours from the Welsh, took shipping for Ireland; but, being driven back by contrary winds, he strove to conceal himself in the mountains of Wales; where, being discovered, he was taken prisoner, and sent to the castle of Kenilworth. The young Le Despencer, the cause of these commotions,

tions, who had accompanied the King in his flight, and was taken at the same time, experienced the same rigour as his father, being put to death with every token of ignominy : a charge was drawn up against King Edward, and his deposition voted by Parliament : some lords were then sent to him at Kenilworth, to require his resignation, which menaces and terror soon extorted from him ; and at the time he surrendered up the ensigns of royalty, he acknowledged with grief, that his degradation was the natural consequence of his imprudent conduct. The Prince of Wales was now placed on the throne in his stead, and crowned in the presence of the principal nobility on the 24th day of January 1327.

But it was impossible that the people, however corrupted by the barbarity of the times, or influenced by faction, should for ever remain insensible to the voice of nature. The irregularities of the Queen could not escape the censure they deserved ; and she became in her turn the object of public hatred.

The situation of the dethroned Monarch excited the compassion of the People, and several of the Barons began to interest themselves in his favour. The new Earl of Lancaster, to whose care he was committed, was soon touched with these generous sentiments, and they bid fair to be productive of favourable consequences to Edward; but, as the humanity and gentleness with which he treated his prisoner did not coincide with the designs of his directors, he was removed from his employ: the King was then delivered into the hands of Lord Berkeley, Sir John Mautravers, and Sir Thomas Gournay, who were intrusted alternately with the charge of guarding him.

Whilst he was in Lord Berkeley's custody he was used with the gentleness due to his rank and misfortunes; but when the others had the command, every species of indignity was practised against him; probably with a design to break his spirits, and by that means put an end to his life, without having recourse

course to more desperate measures. An instance of their disgraceful usage is left on record, and serves as a specimen of his sufferings. One day when the King was to be shaved, they ordered cold and dirty water to be brought from the ditch for that purpose; and when, on desiring it might be changed, he found his request denied, tears plentifully bedewed his royal cheeks. These methods however being too slow for the impatient Mortimer, he secretly sent orders to the keepers, who were at his devotion, to make use of others more conclusive and expeditious. Accordingly, taking advantage of Lord Berkeley's illness, in whose custody he happened to be, they came to Berkeley castle and got possession of the King's person. The inhuman wretches then threw him on a bed, and, keeping him down with a table, put an end to his life by a most cruel and inhuman method. Though the device made use of prevented any external marks of violence, yet the horrid deed was discovered to all the guards and attendants, by the screams with

which the agonizing King filled the castle whilst his bowels were consuming.

Humanity, thou peerless virtue ! divine effulgence ! in those rude ages whither wert thou fled ? in what clime couldst thou then hide thy dejected head, whilst Cruelty, thy infatiate foe, reigned uncontrouled ? Happy, thrice happy those, who, born in a more civilized æra, sail gently down the stream of life, protected by invaluable laws from the assassin's secret dagger, or the more open attacks of oppressive power.

The perpetrators of this horrid deed were held in detestation by all mankind ; and, when by another revolution their employers could no longer afford them protection, they found it necessary to fly the kingdom. Gournay after some time was seized at Marseilles ; but was prevented from receiving a punishment adequate to his crime in the sight of an offended People, by being beheaded during his voyage. This hasty execution,

cution, it is supposed, was occasioned by secret orders from some persons of great consequence in England, to prevent a discovery of their share in the guilt. Mautravers concealed himself several years in Germany, but having rendered some service to Edward the Third, he ventured to approach him, threw himself on his knees, and, humbly submitting to his mercy, received a pardon from that too-generous Prince.

The character of Edward the Second appears to have been intirely free from any crime that could render him deserving of so tragical an end. Unqualified by nature to govern a fierce and turbulent people, he was obliged to devolve on others the weight of government. Indolence and the want of penetration led him to make choice of ministers and favourites who were not proof against the intoxication of delegated power. The seditious and ever-restless Barons, taking advantage of this imprudence, under pretence of attacking his ministers, insulted his

person and invaded his authority ; whilst the impatient and ill-judging populace threw all the blame on their Prince, and increased the public disorders by their faction and violence. The unlimited confidence King Edward placed in his favourites, and the unbounded profusion with which he rewarded their attachment, to the disgust of the whole nation, warranted in some measure this opposition. The partial smiles of a King, if bestowed on an unworthy person, generally carry with them a poison, which for a time apparently invigorates, but at last proves fatal. The English history affords more instances than this before us, of the danger that results from such an imprudent partiality. The Prince, who deaf to the complaints of his People, listens only to the representations of his favourite, and those subservient adherents which during his temporary exaltation attach themselves to him, will find too late, that the opprobrium and punishment due to his oppressive acts are not confined to the abusers of his confidence alone ; but that they will reach

reach even Majesty itself, and involve him in the certain and not unmerited ruin. Even the well-meaning Edward, in whose breast tyranny and oppression appear not to have found a kindly soil, by blindly pursuing the councils of his rapacious minions, found himself entangled in their guilt, and its consequent destruction.

But though this unhappy Prince could not escape the fatal consequences of his infatuation, yet the Queen and Mortimer, by whose direction they were put in execution with such horrid aggravations, drew on themselves the displeasure of every rank. As they kept the young King surrounded by their creatures, and had by every disgraceful submission secured peace with the neighbouring kingdoms, they for a time enjoyed without interruption their unjustly acquired supremacy. The Princes of the Blood, and all those Noblemen who felt for the honour of the nation, and opposed the tyranny of Mortimer, were, through his contrivances, imprisoned or destroyed,

stroyed; and their estates appropriated to his own use. By this means his power grew formidable to every one; and he affected a state and dignity superior to his Royal Master. The whole nation now bowed before him; not one of the Barons daring to dispute his will, except the Earl of Kent, who on that account he resolved to remove out of the way. To effect this he spread a report throughout the kingdom by means of his emissaries, that king Edward the Second was still alive in Corfe castle, but visible only to a few particular persons. As he knew that the Earl of Kent had always entertained a most cordial affection for his unhappy brother, and sincerely lamented his death, he doubted not that he would exert himself in his favour, could he be persuaded that he was really alive. Mortimer was not disappointed in these expectations. The Earl of Kent no sooner heard the story, which was now become the general topic of conversation, than he began to inquire into the foundation of the rumour. He examined

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Sir John Devereil, the governor of the castle, who, having received private instructions from the minister, confirmed the truth of it, insinuating at the same time that he let him into the secret through friendship. Many other persons of distinction firmly believing the report, and expressing their desire of seeing the unfortunate Monarch, and replacing him on the throne, the Earl of Kent wrote him a letter; assuring him, that he would use his utmost endeavours to procure his liberty, and that the principal Noblemen were determined to exert their power in restoring him to that dignity of which he had been so unjustly deprived. Sir John Devereil promised to deliver this letter to King Edward, but put it into the hands of Mortimer, who resolved to employ it as the means of accomplishing the Earl's destruction. He accordingly directed the young King to convoke a Parliament at Winchester: when, as few attended besides his own creatures and dependents, the freedom of these assemblies being destroyed by his arbitrary proceedings,

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he had an opportunity of executing his cruel and revengeful purposes. He communicated the Earl's letter to the King, with such invidious reflections of his own, that Edward wrote to his Uncle requiring his immediate attendance. He was no sooner arrived at Winchester than he was taken into custody and confined. Some of Mortimer's creatures being sent to examine him, they returned with false reports and forged confessions; which so exasperated the King, that he ordered the letter to be laid before the Parliament. The consequence which naturally arose from this method of procedure was, that he was found guilty of high treason, and condemned to lose his head. Mortimer, apprehensive that the King from his humane disposition and affection for his Uncle might be induced to grant the Earl a pardon, resolved to give him no time for deliberation. By the assistance of the Queen Mother he procured a warrant from his Majesty, before his anger had subsided, and gave directions that it should be carried into immediate execution. But so universally

versally was the Earl beloved, that the common executioner refused to perform his office; and though he was brought on the scaffold about noon, yet it was evening before any one could be found to supply his place; even then the sentence was executed by a felon, who, as a reward for the service, received a free pardon for the crimes he had committed. The King was deeply affected at his Uncle's death, and too late discovered the methods by which he had been imposed on. But these illegal practices became at length the subject of daily complaints, and all parties, forgetting former animosities, conspired in hatred against the detested perpetrator.

It was impossible that these abuses could long escape the observation of a Prince endowed with so much spirit and penetration as young Edward, who, being now in his eighteenth year, and thinking himself capable of governing, repined at being kept subservient to this insolent minister. But so much

much was he guarded by the emissaries of Mortimer, that it required great secrecy and caution to conduct any attempt to obtain his freedom. However, assisted by several potent Lords whom he had gained over to his interest, he suddenly threw off the yoke and seized the usurper in an apartment adjoining to the Queen's, at the castle at Nottingham, in the following manner. The young King being now a father \*, the dominion of Mortimer became irksome to him : he beheld with indignation his pride, arrogance, and avarice, and enjoyed a secret pleasure at the public hatred and odium under which that nobleman laboured : he observed with equal

\* On the 24th day of January 1328, the King had married Philippa, daughter of William the Third, Count of Hainault and Holland. The nuptials were celebrated at York with great pomp and splendour ; but the ceremony of her coronation was not performed till about two years after. And on the 15th day of June 1330 their eldest son the Prince of Wales was born at Wodestoke. He was suckled by his royal Mother, whose healthy constitution and sweet disposition contributed in a great measure to entail on her son that strength of body and placid temper, which rendered him a terror to his enemies, and gained him universal esteem.

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shame and sorrow the scandalous familiarity which subsisted between his mother and her favourite: incensed at these disagreeable observations, which now furnished conversation for the public, he resolved to free himself from his disgraceful subjection to this insolent upstart. The King's sentiments soon became perceptible to those few Noblemen that had access to his Majesty, who failed not to inflame his resentment; but as Mortimer had usurped the royal authority, and intirely engrossed the administration of public affairs into his own hands, the whole power of the kingdom was at his devotion. Besides which, he was constantly surrounded by a body of two hundred armed knights, and continually employed a number of spies to watch the motions of his Majesty. This rendered the undertaking difficult; but King Edward was not of a temper to be intimidated by dangers: he imparted his design to William lord Montacute and several other Noblemen, who all concurred in advising him to apprehend the Earl during the next Session

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of Parliament, which was summoned to meet soon after at Nottingham. This was approved of by the King, and he set out with intention to take possession of the castle of that city ; but the Queen Mother and Mortimer, suspecting his design, repaired thither before him, and took up their quarters in it with all their attendants, so that there was scarcely room for the King himself. Mortimer, having received from his spies intelligence of the intentions of his enemies, made sure of defeating their project by a timely seizure of their persons. This however he was prevented from doing by the expedition of Lord Montacute, who prevailed on Sir William Ealand, governor of the castle, to favour their scheme. Sir William readily agreed to assist his Majesty ; but at the same time informed him, that it was impracticable to admit them by the common entry, as the Queen had ordered new locks to be put upon the gates, and the keys to be brought every night into her chamber and laid under her pillow. Nevertheless he recollect<sup>d</sup>, that on the western side of the castle there

there was an old cavern, the mouth of a subterraneous passage which led into the castle, and through this he engaged to conduct them to Mortimer's apartment. The following day the Governor, with Lord Montacute and several other valiant knights, took horse and precipitately left Nottingham. Mortimer concluded they had fled to avoid being seized by his adherents; but they returned about midnight, and, entering the subterranean passage (which is still known by the name of Mortimer's Hole) they were conducted by Sir William into the chief tower of the castle: from thence they advanced into the chamber adjoining to the Queen's apartment, where Mortimer was sitting with a few of his chief dependents; and, notwithstanding resistance was made on the first alarm by some of his knights, he was soon taken prisoner. The Queen, startled at the noise and suspecting the cause, called aloud in the French language to her son, whom she imagined to be at the head of the party, " Bel Fitz ! Bel Fitz ! ayez pitie  
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"du gentile Mortimer." Fair Son ! Fair Son ! have pity on the noble Mortimer. No answer being returned to her intreaties she rushed into the room among the conspirators, and earnestly besought them to do no injury to his person, for he was a worthy knight, her dear friend, and well-beloved cousin. She had however the mortification to find that her supplications were ineffectual. This transaction was conducted with so much secrecy and dispatch, that the people in the town knew nothing of it till the next morning; when two of Mortimer's sons and several of his partizans being likewise apprehended, they were all sent to the Tower of London. The Parliament proceeded immediately to the trial of this proud peer, before whom he was accused of many crimes and misdemeanors; and, as from the supposed notoriety of the facts evidence was thought unnecessary, he was condemned, and executed without delay on a gibbet near London. The Queen was confined to her own palace, and her revenue greatly decreased; and, though

the King paid her a ceremonious visit once or twice a year, she was never able to regain his good opinion, or to reinstate herself in any credit or authority. Such are the sure effects which flow from a vicious and irregular conduct; nor can the most elevated situation, the blaze of pomp, or any human precaution secure the offender from the slow but no less certain inflictions of justice.

The reign of Edward the Third might be said to commence from this time; for though he had been seated on the throne more than three years, yet his youth served as a pretext for the Queen and Mortimer to usurp the regal power, and leave him only the title. He now, like the rising sun, which had for a while been obscured by the lagging clouds of night, broke out with unusual splendour; and, till he became again clouded near the verge of the horizon in his descent, continued to shed with unremitting ardour his enlivening beams on the kingdom over which he presided, raising it to a pitch of glory un-

*James Crofing known*

known before. He begun by applying himself with industry and judgment to redress all those grievances which had either proceeded from want of authority in the crown, or from the abuse of it.

No period of their history is read by the English with more fondness or greater exultation than the reign of this great Monarch. The ascendency which this Nation then began to acquire over the French, makes them cast their eyes on this æra with great satisfaction, and purifies every measure Edward embraced for that end. Nor was the domestic government of this King less worthy of their admiration, than his foreign victories; as England enjoyed by the prudence and vigour of his administration a longer interval of domestic peace and tranquillity, than she had been blest with in any former period, or than she experienced for many ages after. He curbed the licentiousnes of the Barons by his resolution, whilst, by his affable and obliging behaviour, his munificence and generosity,

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he gained their affections, and made them submit with pleasure to his dominion: To this, his foreign wars contributed not a little; as they served to employ those unquiet spirits against the public enemy, which otherwise would have been engaged in disturbances at home.

The first exertion of King Edward's military abilities was against the Scots, who were perpetually making inroads into England. His grandfather Edward the First had by his valour reduced them to a very low ebb; and, had he lived, would probably have annexed their dominions to his own; but during the reign of Edward the Second, through his want of warlike talents and the constant employment he found from his enraged subjects, Scotland had greatly recovered herself, and was again become formidable. In the early part of the present King's reign, whilst he was yet under the dominion of Mortimer, he had repulsed Murray and Douglas, two celebrated warriors, in an at-

tempt they made on his frontiers ; but they eluded his pursuit, and retired to their own country, without his being able to bring them to a decisive battle. Even then that bravery and conduct which afterwards immortalized his name, became conspicuous ; for whilst the armies lay near each other, divided only by a river, which Edward found it impracticable to pass, Douglas the Scottish general having obtained the watch-word, and surveyed exactly the situation of the English camp, entered it secretly in the night-time with a small but chosen body of troops. He advanced to the King's tent, with a view of killing or carrying off the young Monarch in the midst of his army : happily some of Edward's attendants waking in that critical moment, they made resistance, and sacrificed their lives for the safety of their royal Master. The King himself had just time to snatch his sword, and after making a valiant defence escaped in the dark. Douglas having lost the greatest part of his followers was glad to make a hasty retreat. Disappointed

pointed in his scheme he did not think proper to await the resentment of the English, but taking advantage of the night, expeditiously decamped without notice ; by this means he got the start of his enemies, and arrived without loss in his own country.

During the King's minority, Mortimer, to ensure a continuance of his power, had consented to disavow the superiority of England over that kingdom, which Edward the First had taken so much pains to assert. He had also prevailed on the young King to give a bond for a considerable sum to the Pope, who acted as mediator, to be paid if he violated the treaty within four years. For this and several other reasons, he thought it prudent to avoid at present an open rupture. However he secretly encouraged Baliol, who laid claim to the crown of Scotland, now possessed by David Bruce a minor ; and no sooner was the term of the truce expired, than he raised a considerable force, and marched towards that kingdom.

When he arrived on the borders of Scotland, he found himself attacked by Douglas the regent with an army much superior to his own; but he received them with so much steadiness, that they were soon thrown into disorder; and on the fall of their general entirely routed. It is asserted by both the Scotch and English historians, that in this battle fought at Halidown-Hill near Berwick, all the Nobles of distinction among the Scots, with thirty thousand of their troops, were either slain or taken prisoners; whilst the loss of the English amounted only to one Knight, one Esquire, and thirteen private soldiers: but these accounts are certainly much exaggerated, though the inequality was without dispute very great. After this decisive blow the Scottish Nobles had no other resource but instant submission; and Edward leaving a considerable body with Baliol, whose cause he now openly espoused, to complete the conquest of the kingdom, he returned with the remainder of his army to England.

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The warlike inclinations of King Edward not permitting him to remain inactive, he now employed his thoughts on a more considerable conquest. On the death of Charles the Fair King of France, which happened when Edward was about fifteen years of age, he had formed pretensions to the crown of that kingdom ; and he now found leisure to assert them. It is true these pretensions appear not to be very justly founded, but many monarchs have mounted a throne, and transmitted it to their posterity on weaker claims, even supposing the customs of the French, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, to be unalterable.

As at this period the foundation was laid of that war which was carried on between France and England with great vigour for more than a century, and gave rise to that national animosity which remains yet unextinguished, it is necessary to give my Readers an explicit account of the causes from whence it flowed, and the ground on which

King Edward founded his claim. In all the preceding reigns since the Conquest, the hostilities between the two crowns had been only casual and temporary ; and never being attended with any bloody or dangerous events, the traces of them were easily obliterated by the first treaty of pacification. The English nobility valued themselves on their French or Norman extraction, and affected to use the language of that country in all public transactions, as well as in familiar conversation ; but from this æra all amity between the two nations was destroyed, and an unfriendly rivalship established in its room.

It had long been a prevailing opinion, that the crown of France could never descend to females : though it is uncertain at what age, or by which of their monarchs, this law, commonly termed the Salique law, was framed, yet, as it was supported by ancient precedents, it had acquired equal authority with the most express and positive laws of that kingdom. It is probable that  
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in the earliest ages of that monarchy, the Franks were so rude and barbarous a people, that they were incapable of submitting to a female reign. Since that time the crown has always been worn by the nearest male heir; and from Hugh Capet to Lewis Hutin, it had regularly descended without interruption from father to son for eleven generations: so that the kingdom of France had, during the course of nine hundred years, been governed by males, and the succession undisputed.

Philip the Fair, father of Lewis Hutin, left three sons, Lewis, Philip the Long, and Charles the Fair; with one daughter, Isabella Queen of England, mother of King Edward. Lewis Hutin the eldest having married Margaret sister to the Duke of Burgundy, at his death left one daughter; but according to the established custom, Philip the second brother was proclaimed King. This however was not done without the Duke of Burgundy's making great opposition in behalf of his niece, which shews that King Edward's pretensions

pretensions were not unparalleled and romantic. However Philip kept possession of the throne; and the States, by a solemn decree, excluded the young Princes, and declared all females for ever incapable of succeeding to the crown of France. Philip died after a short reign, leaving three daughters; and his brother Charles without dispute or controversy then succeeded to the crown. The reign of Charles was also short; he left one daughter, and was succeeded by Philip de Valois, cousin-german to the three last Kings, being son of Philip de Valois, brother of Philip the Fair. This succession, as it was not so immediate as those had been for eleven generations back, gave King Edward room to found his pretensions in right of his mother. He asserted, that though Queen Isabella as a female could not mount the throne of her ancestors, yet he himself, who inherited through her, was liable to no such objection, and might claim by nearness of blood. The King of Navarre had undoubtedly a prior right to the crown, as descended from the daughter of Lewis Hulin;

Hutin; but if he chose to suffer his claim to lie dormant, such a precedent was not sufficient to deter Edward from asserting pretensions which at that time appeared to him well founded, and which the supineness of any competitor could not invalidate. Some allowance ought certainly to be made for the sanguine expectations of a youthful Monarch, naturally fond from the temper of the times of extending his dominions; and much praise is due to the spirit with which he afterwards supported them.

Well founded as King Edward supposed his claims to be, he did not however think proper as yet to insist on them; as it must have immediately involved him, on very unequal terms, in a dangerous war with a powerful Potentate; King Philip being a Prince mature in years and experience, and firmly established on his throne. He was even obliged to submit so far as to go over to France, to do homage to that King for the province of Guienne, which he held under

under him. The forfeiture of so rich an inheritance would otherwise, agreeable to the feudal law, have been the immediate consequence of his declining to perform the duty of a vassal. Edward therefore yielding to necessity went to Amiens, and performed the disagreeable task ; but found his resentment against his competitor, as he then esteemed him, so augmented, that a few incidents, which soon after happened, rendered it ungovernable.

Robert d'Artois, descended from the blood royal of France, was a man of great character and authority ; he had espoused King Philip's sister, and by his birth, talents, and credit was entitled to fill the highest stations under his Sovereign. This Prince had lost the county of Artois, which he claimed as his birth-right, by a sentence of Philip the Fair. The determination being generally deemed unjust, he was seduced to attempt the recovery of his possessions, by an act so unworthy of his rank and character

as a forgery. The detection of this crime covered him with shame and confusion ; his brother-in-law not only abandoned, but persecuted him with violence ; and this unhappy Prince was obliged to seek refuge in England. He was here favourably received by King Edward, and soon admitted into his councils and confidence. Excited by revenge against the French Monarch, and impelled by rage and despair, he endeavoured to increase the prepossessions entertained by Edward in favour of his title to the crown of France.

The English King needed but few excitations on this point ; his resentment against Philip had already taken deep root : it was also greatly augmented by some recent complaints from Guienne, and the protection and assistance he afforded to David Bruce the exiled King of Scotland. He therefore formed the resolution of seeking redress ; and to this purpose endeavoured to make alliances with some of the neighbouring

ing states. The Count of Hainault, whose daughter Edward had married, soon became his steady friend; and by his intercession, aided by large remittances from England, the Duke of Brabant, the Archbishop of Cologne, the Duke of Gueldres, the Flemings, and several other powers were engaged to embrace the English alliance.

Edward's plan being now ripe for execution, in the beginning of the year 1338, and the twelfth of his reign, he sailed over into Flanders, attended by many of his Nobles, and a considerable body of English forces. He now assumed the title of King of France \* as a plea for this invasion;

\* King Edward now for the first time quartered the arms of France with those of England. The inscription of the great seal was altered from Duke of Aquitain to King of France, the former being absorbed in the latter, and it was on this occasion that he adopted the motto of "*Dieu & mon Droit*," God and my right; alluding to the design of maintaining his title to the crown of that kingdom.

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whilst the German and the other Princes endeavoured to find some plausible pretext for joining in the league. Philip made necessary preparations to repel this attack, and formed connections more cordial and powerful than those entered into by his antagonist. The allies of Edward having no other object for their interference than his money, they were slow in their motions, and irresolute in their measures; it was consequently late in the summer before the King could lead his forces into the field: he was even then obliged, in order to allure his German auxiliaries into his measures, to consent that the first attack should be made on Cambray, a city of the empire, which had been garrisoned by Philip: but on a nearer inspection, judging the attempt to be impracticable, he conducted them towards the frontiers of France.

Here he found by a sensible proof the vanity of his expectations and the little dependence there is to be placed in foreign mercenaries.

cenaries. The Count of Namur, and even the Count of Hainault his brother-in-law (for the old Count was lately dead) refused to commence hostilities against their liege Lord, and retired with all their troops. King Edward however entered the enemy's country, and encamped near Cassel, with an army of fifty thousand men, composed chiefly of auxiliaries. Philip came within sight of him with an army nearly double to that of his opponent, and most of those his native subjects. It was daily expected that a battle would have ensued; but as the English Monarch was averse to begin an engagement against so great an inequality, Philip thought it sufficient to elude the attacks of his invader without running any unnecessary hazard. The two armies faced each other for several days; mutual defiance were sent; and King Edward at last retired in good order into Flanders, where he dispersed his army. Though the English Monarch was unsuccessful in this attempt, yet he gave proofs of great courage and conduct.

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With half the force of his adversary, and those consisting of mercenaries on whom he was assured he could place little dependence, he repeatedly defied his powerful competitor, and led back his troops without sustaining any loss.

King Edward was a Prince of too much spirit to be discouraged by the first difficulties of an undertaking; they only animated him to endeavour to retrieve his honour by more successful enterprizes. Expensive as this expedition had been, he was not deterred by this consideration from prosecuting his plan. He had contracted a debt of near three hundred thousand pounds; had anticipated all his revenue; had pawned every thing of value which belonged either to himself or the Queen; and was obliged to pledge himself to his mercenary allies, by desiring permission to go over to England to procure a supply, promising on his word of honour to return in person if he

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did not remit them the money; yet in these embarrassed circumstances he suffered not his noble heart to be dejected. Relying on his subjects love, he returned home, and procured from his Parliament great aids for the maintenance of the war. He obtained from the Barons and Knights an unusual grant for two years, of the tenth sheaf, fleece, and lamb (the subsidies of that age), and from the Burgeses a tenth of their moveables at their true value.

As Philip was apprized from the preparations which were making both in England and the Low Countries the year following, that he must expect another invasion, he fitted out a fleet consisting of four hundred vessels, manned with forty thousand men, and stationed them off Sluise, with a view of intercepting the King of England in his passage. King Edward, notwithstanding he had received intelligence of this intended opposition, and was strongly dissuaded

diffuaded by some of his counsellors \*, was not to be deterred from his purpose of returning to the Continent. Though his armament was greatly inferiour to that of the French, consisting only of two hundred and forty ships, yet depending on his own courage, the valour of his forces, and the skill of his seamen, he set sail. By a manœuvre he gained the wind of the enemy ; and in this position the English had the sun, which then happened to shine with great power, on their backs ; advantages which operated greatly in their favour. These, added to the King's great example, and that of his

\* The Bishop of Chichester, then Chancellor, endeavoured to divert the King from this design, and strenuously opposed his embarkation ; but when he found that his admonitions would not avail, he resigned the seals, and hastily retired from court. King Edward imputing his warmth to its right cause, a real zeal for his interest, instead of being offended at it, did not think it beneath him to send for the Bishop and re-instate him in his office. A convincing proof that Historians have justly celebrated that Monarch for his moderation and prudence.

gallant Nobles, animated the soldiers and seamen to such a degree, that though the French, encouraged by their superior numbers, maintained the combat with great steadiness for a considerable time, yet they were at length obliged to yield. Great numbers, intimidated at the irresistible fury with which they were attacked by the men at arms, threw themselves headlong into the sea. Two hundred and thirty French ships were taken; and thirty thousand of their men, with two of their Admirals, killed or drowned. When the news of this defeat arrived at Paris, not one of King Philip's courtiers dared to deliver him the fatal intelligence, till his Jester gave him a hint, by which he discovered the loss he had sustained. The Buffoon came into the royal presence, and exclaimed several times with great warmth and vehemence, " Cowardly Englishmen; dastardly Englishmen; faint-hearted Englishmen." The King asking him the reason why he gave them these opprobrious epithets, he replied, Because

cause they had not the courage to leap into the sea like our brave Frenchmen.

The King of England's authority among his allies was greatly strengthened by this success ; they consequently assembled their forces with greater alacrity than they had done the last campaign, and joined the English army in good season. Edward marched to the frontiers of France at the head of one hundred thousand men, whilst the Flemings to the amount of fifty thousand, under the command of Robert d'Artois, laid siege to St. Omer's. The latter being chiefly composed of artizans unexperienced in war, were routed by a sally of the garrison ; and, notwithstanding the abilities of their leader, were thrown into such a panick, that they were instantly dispersed, and never after appeared in the field.

King Edward at the same time laid siege to Tournay, then one of the considerable cities in Flanders. Philip having been in-

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formed of this design, had supplied it with fourteen thousand of his best troops, commanded by the bravest of his Generals; Edward consequently met with a vigorous resistance. His own valour, which his soldiers strove to emulate, could not avail; every assault, though planned with the greatest judgment, and executed with uncommon perseverance, proved unsuccessful; he therefore turned the siege into a blockade, in hopes that the great numbers of the garrison and inhabitants would oblige them to surrender through famine. After the blockade had continued ten weeks, the city was reduced to great distress; and Philip advanced at the head of a mighty army to its relief. But even now the same caution with which that King had hitherto acted, continued to be the rule of his operations; he still avoided coming to a decisive action, and only sought for an opportunity to afford the garrison some succour.

King

King Edward, irritated with the small progress he had made, and impelled by his natural valour, which could not brook such tardy proceedings, sent Philip a defiance by a herald ; challenging him to decide their claims to the crown of France either by a single combat, by an action between one hundred Knights on each side, or by a general engagement. To this the French King replied, that as Edward had done homage to him for the Duchy of Guienne, and had thereby acknowledged his superiority, it by no means became him to send a defiance to his Sovereign. By this and other evasive excuses he declined the combat ; and both armies lay adjacent to each other, expecting every day that a general action could not long be avoided.

Whilst things continued in this situation, Jane Countess Dowager of Hainault, mother-in-law to Edward, and sister to Philip, interposed, and endeavoured to reconcile the contending Monarchs. Though this Prin-

cess had taken the vows in a convent, and had abandoned the world, she left her retreat on so interesting an occasion, and employed all her pious efforts to allay those animosities which had taken place between persons so nearly related to her, and to each other. Her humane endeavours so far succeeded, as to bring the hostile Kings to consent to a truce till the Midsummer following; and each dismissing his forces, retired to their respective dominions.

During this interval of peace, King Edward employed his time in the regulation of the internal police of his kingdom; till another incident aroused his warlike inclinations, and excited anew that resentment against the King of France which had not been totally eradicated, but only lay slumbering in his breast.

John, the third Duke of Brittany, finding himself some years before his death gradually sinking under the weight of age and infirmities,

infirmities, and having no issue, was solicitous to prevent the disorders attendant on a disputed succession. His younger brother the Count de Penthièvre had left only one child, which was a daughter, and whom the Duke deemed his heir. As his family had inherited the duchy by a female succession, he thought her title preferable to that of the Count de Mountfort, who being his brother only by a second marriage, though the next male heir, was not the presumptive successor to that principality. Proposing therefore to bestow her on some person who might be able to defend her rights, he cast his eyes on Charles de Blois, nephew to the King of France, being the son of Margaret de Valois, sister of that Monarch. But as he loved his subjects, and was beloved by them, he determined not to take this important step without their approbation : he accordingly assembled the States of Brittany, and representing to them the advantages which would attend this alliance, found that they willingly concurred

curred in his choice. The marriage was soon after concluded, and all his vassals, among whom was the Count de Mountfort himself, swore fealty to Charles and his consort as their future sovereign. Thus every danger of civil commotions seemed to be obviated, as far as human prudence could find a remedy against them.

But on the death of this good Prince, the ambition of the Count de Mountfort broke through all these prudent regulations. Whilst Charles de Blois was soliciting at the court of France the investiture of the duchy, Mountfort was active in gaining possession of it. By force or intrigue he made himself master of several strong fortresses, and engaged many considerable Barons to acknowledge his authority. Sensible that he could expect no favour from the King of France, he made a voyage to England on pretence of soliciting his claim to the Earldom of Richmond, which had devolved to him by his brother's death; but his

his real intention was to procure assistance from King Edward. He accordingly proposed an alliance between that Prince and himself; offering at the same time to do homage to him as King of France for the duchy of Brittany. The English Monarch immediately saw the advantages that would attend this treaty, and accepted the conditions, as they corresponded so well with his favourite wishes. It was however necessary to keep this union as yet a secret; and Mountfort on his return ventured to appear at Paris to defend his cause: but observing the French King to be prejudiced against him, he suddenly made his escape, and hostilities immediately commenced between him and Charles de Blois.

In the course of the war, during which King Edward had privately given him assistance, the Count de Mountfort being besieged in the city of Nantz and made prisoner, he was shut up in the Tower of the Louvre. After his captivity, Jane of Flanders

ders his Countess, the most extraordinary woman of that age, supported for a while the fading honours of her family : at length finding her heroic efforts ineffectual, she failed to England in hopes of obtaining further succours from King Edward. That Prince listened to her supplications, and granted her a considerable reinforcement under Robert d'Artois. On their passage they were met by the enemy's fleet, and an engagement ensued, in which the Countess behaved with more than female intrepidity, charging her foes sword in hand, and animating her own forces by her example. Whilst the victory remained doubtful a storm arose, and the fleets being separated, that of the English arrived safe in Brittany.

For a short time success seemed to attend the arms of the Countess ; but Robert d'Artois being slain, and Fortune, ever fickle, deserting her, King Edward found it necessary to undertake in person the support of that lady. The truce which had been concluded

cluded with France being now expired, the English and French no longer appeared in the field as allies to the competitors for Brittany, but as principals in the war. King Edward having landed in France, with about twelve thousand men, endeavoured to give a lustre to his arms by laying siege to three important cities at once; but finding the number of his troops unequal to his great designs, and that his enemies were well provided with all kinds of necessaries, whilst he was obliged to draw all his supplies from England, he willingly listened to the mediation of two Cardinals, the Pope's Legates, who happened at that time to be in France, and agreed to another truce for three years. Notwithstanding his dangerous situation, distressed for provisions, and surrounded by a superior enemy, he had the address to procure for himself, and the person on whose account he had undertaken the expedition, very honourable terms.

This

This truce however was of no long continuance ; real or pretended injuries served both parties as a pretext to put an end to it. King Edward apprehensive, from the hostile preparations openly made by his adversary, of an attack on Guienne, sent the Earl of Derby, son to the Duke of Lancaster, and under him the Earls of Pembroke, Arundel, and Oxford, into France with a considerable army for the protection of that province. This Prince could not confine his ardour to the security of these domains alone, but made many successful inroads into the territories of his enemies. The Count de l'Isle, an experienced French General, was his opponent ; yet the Earl with only a thousand cavalry attacked his army unexpectedly, and after taking the Count himself prisoner, obtained a complete victory. The Count with twelve thousand men had laid siege to Auberoche, and battered it with engines so furiously, that in six days the fortifications were almost demolished. The Earl of Derby, apprized of the distress

of

of the garrison, set out from Bourdeaux by night with a party of three hundred lances, and about twice that number of archers : he had previously sent orders to the Earl of Pembroke, who lay at Bergerac with three hundred men at arms and four thousand archers, to join him with these forces at Lichbourne. He reached this place himself before morning, and waited all day for Lord Pembroke's arrival, keeping his small army concealed from the enemy ; but finding that Nobleman did not overtake him, he marched on in the night, and by day-break arrived within two leagues of Auberoche. On this spot he also remained till the following evening in hopes of the reinforcement ; when, despairing of any assistance, he was persuaded by the gallant Sir Walter Manny to beat up the French quarters while they should be at supper. With this view they proceeded under covert of a wood, till they were close to one division of the enemy's camp ; they then rushed in upon them with so much impetuosity, that the Count de l'Isle

T Isle the General, with the Counts Perigord and Valentinois, were taken in their tents before they had time to recover from their surprize. Great numbers of the French, unable to make any resistance, were cut to pieces, and the rest betook themselves to flight. But whilst havock and confusion prevailed in this quarter, the other part of the French army commanded by the Count de Cominges flew to their arms; and being drawn up in order of battle, advanced against the English with great intrepidity. The Earl of Derby, though he had not one-fourth of the number, determined to make a vigorous effort to complete the work he had so happily begun; and collecting his forces into a compact battalion charged the enemy with irresistible fury. The French, desirous of revenging the death of their countrymen, gave him a warm reception; and a desperate engagement ensuing, the victory remained for a long time doubtful, till the garrison of Auberoche hearing the trumpets sound a charge on

on both sides, and descrying some English banners, though it was now twilight, sallied forth in great numbers, and falling on the rear of the French army decided the fortune of the day. The enemy, unable to make any further resistance, were instantly routed with great slaughter; their loss in both actions amounting to seven thousand slain, and twelve hundred prisoners, among whom were ten Noblemen, and two hundred Knights and Gentlemen. The Earl of Pembroke arrived next morning with the troops under his command, and was greatly vexed that he had not the happiness to share in so glorious an action. Improving this advantage, he reduced in a rapid succession the most capital fortresses of the adjacent provinces. But the French King having at length raised a powerful army, and given the command of it to his son the Duke of Normandy, the English were unable to keep the field against so great a superiority: the Earl of Derby therefore could only act on the defensive; and by

E bravely

bravely defending the towns he had taken, retard the progress of the French towards Guienne, for the reduction of which great preparations had been made.

King Edward was no sooner informed by the Earl of this unexpected revolution, than he prepared to hasten in person to his relief; but being detained at Southampton a considerable time by contrary winds, and despairing of arriving in time to save Guienne, he was persuaded by Geoffrey d'Harcourt, a Norman, to change the place of his destination. This Nobleman having displeased his master the King of France, to avoid his anger fled to England; where he was received by King Edward as a valuable acquisition. Urged by the same motives as Robert d'Artois, he entered into the King's resentments, and advised him to the best methods of prosecuting them. He pointed out to him, that an invasion by way of Normandy promised more certain success, than the intended expedition to Guienne;

Guienne; the northern provinces of the kingdom being left almost defenceless by the departure of those troops which had been drawn towards the south: that this part of the country being exceedingly plentiful, would supply his army with necessaries; whilst the many rich cities with which it also abounded, would afford plunder sufficient to repay the expences of the war. These and many other reasons which this Nobleman gave the King, induced him to alter his plan; and he ordered his fleet, which consisted of near a thousand sail, to steer for La Hogue in Normandy, where after a short passage he safely disembarked his army on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1346.

In this expedition my hero the Prince of Wales, then only sixteen years old, first entered on that stage, which he ever after trod with so much reputation to himself, and glory to the kingdom which gave him birth. From this period therefore shall I begin my account of him; as nothing wor-

thy of notice can be supposed to have happened in the earlier part of his life; only remarking, that from his very childhood he gave proofs of strength, courage, and solidity of judgment far above his years. It is uncertain whether he acquired the name of Black Prince from the colour of the armour he usually wore, as some Historians assert, or from that gloom which his dreadful deeds in war spread over the whole kingdom of France, and induced that people to give him the appellation of Le Noir. The Prince, with several of the young Nobility, received the honour of Knighthood from his Royal Father on their landing; and every prudent disposition being made by King Edward, the English army immediately marched towards Caen, a populous and commercial city.

The King of France was thrown into the greatest perplexity when he was informed of this unexpected invasion; he however issued orders for raising troops from all

all quarters; and in the mean time dispatched the Count d'Eu, Constable of France, and the Count de Tankerville, to stop the progress of his adversary. The inhabitants of Caen receiving this reinforcement, animated by their numbers, ventured against the advice of the Constable to meet the English in the field; but their courage failing them on the first shock, they fled with precipitation, leaving the two Counts their Commanders to the mercy of the enemy. The victors entered the city with the flying citizens, and a dreadful massacre ensued; King Edward however put a stop to it as soon as it was possible, but permitted his men to begin a plunder which lasted three days. The effects collected on this occasion were put on board the ships and sent over to England, with three hundred of the richest citizens, from whose ransom the captors expected a future profit.

The King marched next to Rouen, in hopes of treating that city in the same man-

ner ; but he found that Philip was arrived there with a considerable force, and that he had already ordered the bridge to be broken down. Disappointed in this design he continued his march along the banks of the Seine in his rout to Paris, wishing to get possession of his enemy's capital. In this scheme he was also frustrated by the same precautions ; for he found all the bridges demolished, both on that river and on the Somme.

Edward's situation now became extremely hazardous ; as on the opposite banks of the river an army commanded by Lord Gondemar de Faye attended his motions, whilst Philip pursued him at the head of one hundred thousand men. In this dilemma the King offered a considerable reward to any one that would give him intelligence of a safe passage over the Somme. A Peasant, tempted by the sum, betrayed the interest of his country, and informed him of a ford below Abbewille which might be passed at low water. The indefatigable

indefatigable King hastened thither, but found Gondemar posted on the opposite shore. He deliberated not a moment, but attended by his brave son threw himself into the stream, and being properly supported, drove his opposers from their station. His rear guard had scarcely gained the shore, when King Philip's army arrived; they were however prevented from overtaking them by the return of the tide. Thus did the English Monarch by his prudence and celebrity escape a danger, which, from his situation and the superior number of his enemies, appeared inevitable. As Philip, by this incident, was obliged to take a considerable circuit, it gave Edward time to encamp on the field of Cressy; and to make the most proper disposition of his army for the reception of so formidable an enemy.

When King Edward had issued out his orders, he invited his principal Officers to an entertainment in his tent; and during the whole evening appeared so cheerful and

serene, that a calm intrepidity diffused itself through every breast, and made them rather expect the morning with impatience, though so greatly out-numbered, than behold its approach with dread.

The Prince of Wales, not yet arrived at the age of manhood, being at this time but sixteen years and two months old, sat amidst the surrounding Nobles with the composure of a veteran. In the passage over the Somme he had, for the first time, stained his sword in blood; but as the contest was of a short duration, he had an opportunity only of shewing a small part of that strength and valour which the next day enabled him to perform incredible acts of heroism,

As soon as the morning dawned the King and his son arose, and immediately proceeded to the performance of their religious duties. Courage was not a surer effervesce of knighthood than piety; nor could it be more genuine and sincere than

in the hearts of these truly heroic Princes. The consequent tranquillity which sat in their countenances inspired the whole army with confidence, and made them obey the orders that were issued out with the greatest cheerfulness and alacrity. His Majesty \* not doubting but that a battle would soon ensue, then surveyed the ground, and derived every possible advantage from it. He drew his forces upon a gentle ascent near the village of Cressy, and divided them into three bodies. The first he gave the command of to the Prince of Wales ; but lest his Son's youth and inexperience might render him unequal to so important a station, he appointed the Earl of Warwick and Lord

\* Though I have made use of the word Majesty and other modern appellations throughout this work, yet that title was not given to the Kings of England till many years after this period. The style of Grace was first given to them about the time of Henry the Fourth ; to Henry the Sixth Excellent Grace ; to Edward the Fourth High and Mighty Prince ; to Henry the Seventh sometimes Grace, sometimes Highness ; to Henry the Eighth first Highness, then Majesty, and to all the Kings since Sacred or Most Excellent Majesty.

John

John Chandos to assist and direct him, should their advice be necessary : the second division was led by the Earls of Arundel and Northampton : and the King himself took the command of the third ; which he drew up at some distance from the main body, intending with this corps to succour the other battalions, or to secure a retreat, as he should see needful. He likewise prudently threw up intrenchments on the flank of his little army, to defend it from the superior numbers of the enemy ; and placed all his carriages and baggage in the rear, inclosing them with a rampart.

This admirable disposition being made, and the troops having taken their proper stations, he rode through the ranks, pointing out to them the inevitable destruction that awaited them, if they did not exert their utmost courage on this trying occasion : he reminded them of the success which had hitherto attended their arms, notwithstanding they had been always greatly

greatly out-numbered by their foes ; and assured them, that regularity and order would compensate for the present disadvantage in that respect : he then concluded his short oration, by telling them, that all he required from them was, that they would imitate his own example and that of his Son, who would partake with them of every danger. The intrepidity which still appeared in his Majesty's face, and the composure with which he addressed them, warmed every heart, and made his troops think the hours tedious till the approach of their foes gave them an opportunity of proving by their actions, what impression his harangue had made on their minds. After a short repast they laid themselves on the grass with their arms by their sides, and in this posture awaited the approach of their enemies.

The French army, which had passed the night at Abbeville about four leagues distant, began their march at sun-rise in haste and confusion,

confusion. Confident of success, and presuming on their numbers, they apprehended they were marching to certain victory ; they consequently would submit to no regulation, but rushed on in the greatest disorder. Philip had dispatched four Noblemen to discover the posture of the English ; by them he was informed of their excellent disposition, and advised to defer giving battle till the next day. The French King saw the propriety of this advice ; he was sensible that the disorderly and fatigued condition of his troops, tired with a long and impetuous march, rendered them not a match for their cool and intrepid enemies ; he therefore gave his commands for a general halt. But the rashness and impetuosity of the French nobility rendered it impracticable to put these orders in execution. One division pressing upon another, this immense body became ungovernable, and was hurried on without order, till they came within sight of their adversaries. A deadly paleness diffused itself over the coun-

tenance of Philip, when he first discerned the regularity and composure of the English; and he gave command to prepare for battle with unusual trepidation.

He divided his army as well as the general confusion would admit into three divisions. The charge of the van he committed to his brother the Count d'Alençon, to John of Luxembourg King of Bohemia, and to Charles Marquis of Moravia, son of the Bohemian King; accompanied by many Nobles of distinguished rank. The first line of this body consisted of fifteen thousand Genoese, armed with cross-bows, and led on by Antonio Doria and Carolo Grimaldi. The center the King commanded in person; James King of Majorca, Prince Albert the Elector Palatine, and Otho Duke of Austria serving under him. The rear was brought up by the Earl of Savoy.

It was about three o'clock in the afternoon before this unwieldy body, amounting

to

to upwards of one hundred and twenty thousand men, more than four times the number of the English, could be ranged in order of battle. The Genoese were the first to begin the attack ; but whilst they were preparing for the charge, a smart shower of rain, with loud claps of thunder, for a while withheld the contention : the air however soon cleared, and the sun shone with redoubled power on the faces of the French. The Genoese had imprudently neglected to cover the strings of their bows during the shower, so that they were in a manner useless ; and they discharged their first flight of arrows without doing any execution. The English archers, who had not neglected this precaution, in their turn poured upon them a shower of well-aimed darts, which instantly put the Genoese into disorder ; so that no longer able to keep their ranks, they retreated in confusion on the French troops behind them. The Count d'Alençon, finding himself thus incommoded, and enraged at their cowardice, ordered

ordered his men to clear their way through them with their swords ; and at the same time spurred his horse into the midst of them. This fiery Prince had offended these troops before the engagement, when they alledged how unfit they were for battle, after a long wearisome march loaded with armour : now, contrary to all policy, instead of striving to rally them, he endeavoured to drive them from the field ; where they might at least have been of service in receiving the first flights of English arrows. From this imprudent conduct of the French General, the Genoese were not only miserably trodden under foot and put to the sword, but great numbers of his own troops, being entangled with them, were exposed to the arrows of the English archers, who took their aim at the spot where they perceived the tumult and confusion was the greatest.

At length however the Count, with the bravest of his men, having made their way

way through the broken Genoese, attacked with great fury the battalion, at the head of which stood the Prince of Wales. It was now that this young Prince for the first time had an opportunity of proving that his valour was genuine, and that his nerves were well strung. The Count was received with so much steadiness and resolution, that the greatest part of the forces which attended him were cut to pieces. The Prince of Wales had no sooner repulsed this body, than three fresh squadrons, composed of the most resolute French and German troops, forced their way through the archers, and came pouring in upon him. These also he boldly withstood; but the Earls of Warwick and Oxford, apprehensive for a life which, from its budding glory, promised to be so great an ornament to his country, dispatched a messenger to the King to inform him of his Son's danger, and to beg he would move to their assistance.

King

King Edward had taken his station at the head of his corps de reserve, which was drawn up on the summit of the hill; from whence he had a view of the field of battle. He had observed the French standards drop apace, and was forming to himself pleasing hopes of his Son's success, when the Knights came to desire aid; he therefore hastily enquired whether the Prince was dead, wounded, or felled to the ground: on his receiving an answer in the negative, the King replied, " Go back and tell the Lords who sent you, that whilst my Son is alive they will require my aid in vain; for I am resolved that the renown of this glorious day shall belong to him, and those brave Knights who share the danger with him. Let him therefore take pains to win his spurs, and to deserve the honour of Knighthood which I have so lately conferred upon him."

Before the return of the messenger the Prince had behaved so gallantly, and was

so well seconded by his troops, that the Lords were sorry they had betrayed any apprehensions : but no sooner was the answer of his Majesty reported, than they all found their spirits exhilarated, and with one mind they determined to support the expectations of their King, or die in the attempt. The forces which had attacked them with so much impetuosity were consequently repelled, and in a little time broken and defeated.

This success encouraged the Prince, who hitherto had acted on the defensive, to advance ; and being joined by the division under the Earls of Arundel and Northampton, the archers were ordered to fall into wings on each side. In this firm battalion they marched towards the French, who met them with a gallant resolution ; pleased with the thought that their deaths should not be sent them at a distance, but that now they might hand to hand contend for the victory :

victory ! yet here also they found themselves unequal to the task.

The Marquis of Moravia, son to the King of Bohemia, was the first who renewed the battle ; but being wounded in three places, his standard beaten to the ground, and his men slain in heaps around him, he with difficulty turned his horse and rode out of the field, having cast away his armour that he might not be known.

The French King in person, with some select troops, now made the last essay to turn the fortune of the day ; but with such ill success, that he was obliged to quit the field with only sixty persons in his company ; yet not before he had given convincing proofs of his valour : he was wounded both in the neck and thigh, and had one horse killed under him ; he was dismounted also from a second, and had undoubtedly been slain or taken prisoner, if Lord John of Hainault, his brother-in-law,

F 2 had

had not a third time remounted him, and then taking hold of his horse's bridle, almost by force compelled him to leave the battle. The royal Standard of France was beaten to the ground; the standard-bearer being killed in sight of the King; and whilst both nations warmly contended for it, a French Knight dismounted from his horse, ripped it from its shaft with his sword, and wrapping it in folds about his body, rode out of the field. From this time the French made little or no opposition; and night coming on, it gave an opportunity to more than half their army to escape: this they did in such small parties, as plainly shewed that their defeat was decisive and complete.

The Prince of Wales, unwilling to hazard so glorious a victory by breaking his ranks, thought it not prudent to pursue them: he wisely considered that the numbers which had escaped were still superior to his own forces; and that being augmented by

by those troops which were marching from different quarters with all expedition to join the French army before the battle, they might rally and return to the charge. The King his father approved of his conduct in this respect, and ordered his army to pass the night on the field of battle.

It is almost incredible with how little loss this memorable victory was obtained; neither the French or English historians take notice of more than three Knights and one Squire killed in the battle on the side of the English; and it is evident, from the history of the baronage of England, that not one of the Nobility fell that day, though most of them, as appears from the same authority, accompanied the King in this expedition. On the part of the French their loss was irreparable; not so much from the number of troops slain, though at least thirty thousand lay dead on the field of battle, as from the great slaughter of their prime Nobility and Knights. There

fell that day, besides the Kings of Bohemia and Majorca, the Duke of Lorrain nephew to the French King, Humbert Duke of Vienne, and Lewis Earl of Flanders, all sovereign Princes. Charles Count d'Alengon, King Philip's brother, the Counts de Blois, Vaudemont, Harcourt, Aumale, St. Paul, and Sancerre, with many others of the French Nobility; Grimaldi and Doria the Genoese Commanders, and nine German Noblemen of distinction belonging to the King of Bohemia's retinue, were numbered among the slain. These were accompanied in their deaths by twenty-four Bannerets, twelve hundred Knights, fifteen hundred men at arms, and four thousand Squires on horseback.

The King of Bohemia, who shared in this catastrophe, was the son of Henry of Luxemburgh, late Emperor of Germany; he was a soldier of great reputation and experience, but almost blind through age, and the loss of one of his eyes in the Italian wars,

wars! Before the engagement, being told the position of the English army, he said, contrary to the confident opinion of the French, “ Then I see they will either conquer or die.” And when he found that the former part of his prediction was nearly verified, with an unparalleled fortitude he called about him the chief Commanders of his forces, and thus address'd them : “ You have been my companions in many a bloody field ; and have ever obeyed my commands with readiness ; receive therefore with the same respect my last injunction ; bring me forward that I may deal among these Englishmen one good stroke of my sword, and I shall die with satisfaction.” Without hesitating they agreed to obey him, though death should be the result of their obedience : and that they might not by any extremity be separated from each other, they fastened their horses bridles together ; then putting themselves in the first rank of their own troops, they courageously charged the Prince of Wales :

but, unable to withstand the power of that young hero and his valiant assistants, they were all slain, and the next day found dead about the body of their King, with their horses bridles tied together. Thus fell the noble and warlike King of Bohemia, leaving the honour of his death to adorn the blooming laurels of the young Prince of Wales. His arms were three ostrich feathers, with this motto, ICH DIEN, signifying in the German language I SERVE; and his standard being taken by the Prince, he afterwards used the same device, which has ever since been borne by the Princes of Wales his successors.

When night had put an end to the war-like achievements of that ever memorable day, the Prince of Wales hastened to the royal tent, and presented himself before his Father with all the humility of a truly heroic mind: King Edward, whose heart was susceptible of every delicate passion, at the sight of the victorious Prince sprung forward,

forward, and clasped him in his arms: a flood of tumultuous joy deprived him for a moment of the power of utterance; and he stood enrapt, with his eyes turned towards Heaven in gratitude for the preservation of so valuable a life. At length these unconnected sentences broke from him, and spoke in some degree the emotion's of his heart; " You are indeed my Son—  
 " I glory in my boy—this day have you  
 " nobly acquitted yourself, and deserve the  
 " Crown for which we have fought—the  
 " honour of the day be yours—persevere  
 " as you have begun, and be at once my  
 " comfort and my pride." Flattering as this encomium was from so good a judge of merit, it did not inspire young Edward with the least degree of vanity or arrogance; he bowed with a modest air, and contented himself with having contributed to his Father's glory, and the honour of his country.

In this scene our hero nearly equalled any of the celebrated heroes of Greece or Rome. Alexander wept when he entered the tent of Darius; and gained greater honour by this ebullition of humanity than from all his victories: Scipio restrained the tender emotions of his heart, and delivered back a Fair Captive to the arms of her distracted Husband, though at the expence of his happiness: and the Prince of Wales, with equal magnanimity, in all the pride of youth, yet warm with the blood of vanquished foes, and elated with success, humbly laid his laurels at his Father's feet, and with an unaffected modesty disclaimed the praises of surrounding heroes.

The moderation of King Edward also, after this important victory, was equal to the conduct he had shewn in obtaining it: he commanded that none should insult the inhabitants, or beast, of their success; and by proclamation he granted a truce for three days, that the French belonging to the neighbouring

neighbouring towns may be at liberty to bury their dead countrymen. The bodies of the principal personages he caused to be conveyed in solemn pomp to Montreuil, where they were deposited in the great Abbey; the King himself and all his Nobility attending their funerals. Ever ready to pay the respect due to merit, though in an enemy, he ordered all military honours to be paid to the memory of the old King of Bohemia, and sent his body to the Marquis his son, who interred it at Luxembourg.

The morning after the battle, which was fought the 26th day of August 1346, the King sent out parties in pursuit of the scattered enemy. A body of these under the command of the Earls of Arundel, Northampton, and Suffolk, fell in with a considerable force commanded by the Archbishop of Roan, and the grand Prior of France; who, not having been informed of the defeat of their countrymen, were marching to join

join the grand army : but they soon shared the same fate, both the Leaders with most of their men being killed on the spot. The greatest part also of those who had fled from the battle of Cressy, amounting nearly to the number slain in the fight, were destroyed next day by means of a stratagem : the morning proving misty, King Edward ordered some of the standards which had been taken the day before to be placed on eminences, which decoyed numbers of the stragglers, who immediately fell victims to their want of caution.

It is related by some historians, that the French King had determined to make an end of the war at once by the total destruction of the English, and for that purpose had brought into the field the great and hallowed banner of France called Oriflambe, believed in those superstitious ages to have come down from Heavon : as this had never been used before but against the Infidels, and was always considered as a warrant for their

their extirpation, on this occasion also it was supposed to grant the same fanguinary licence. From this circumstance King Edward's orders for giving no quarters are said to have arisen ; but it is more probable that this severe charge proceeded from the great disproportion between the numbers of the French and English ; had the latter been allowed to break their ranks, and to make prisoners of those that submitted, it might have so encumbered them, as to occasion their own defeat ; consequently King Edward acted in this respect with all the precaution of a wise General, and thereby avoided the barbarity of putting men to the sword in cool blood, which one of his successors, Henry the Fifth, thought it necessary to do after the battle of Agincourt, the prisoners he had taken exceeding the number of his whole army.

The King of France retired (as said before) out of the battle by favour of the night, with not above sixty persons in his

3 company,

company, of whom only five were Barons. Thus slightly attended, this unhappy Monarch reluctantly left the field; and rode with great speed till he came to the Castle of Broye, about two leagues from Cressy; on his demanding entrance, the Governor asked who it was that expected to be let in at so unseasonable an hour; the King replied, "Open your gates quickly, for I am the Fortune of France." His Majesty probably thought, in that distressing moment, how false a title his flatterers had graced him with, when they used to term him Le-bien-fortune, the Fortunate. Adversity clears the mental ray from every delusive charm; and reduces the most haughty mind to its proper standard. The King was immediately admitted; but not thinking himself secure so near his enemies, after he had taken some refreshment he set out for Amiens. Having now leisure to reflect on the causes of his ill success, he blamed several of his Knights, and was so highly incensed at the Lord Gondemar de Faye, for  
so

so badly defending the passage over the Somme, that had he been near, it would have cost him his head : but Lord Beaumont, to soften the King's displeasure, with great reason observed, that if his Majesty himself, with a much superior army of chosen troops, was not able to withstand the puissance of the King of England, how was it to be expected that Gondemar with his small force should prevail against him ? This pertinent observation pacified the King, and saved Gondemar from any further censure.

From this time, impressed with all the horrors of their situation, the French began to call the young Prince of Wales, to whose skill and courage they principally attributed their disgrace, Le Noir, the Black Prince ; and so familiar did this title become, that in a record made in the early part of the reign of Richard the Second, his Son, he is so styled.

Richard the Second, King

King Edward now marched with his victorious army towards Calais, which he intended to besiege : he knew that this important fortress was impregnable, but being freed by the late decisive engagement from any interruption, he determined to reduce it by famine ; to this purpose he chose a secure station for his camp, and drew in, trenches round the whole town.

Whilst he patiently waited in this situation the surrender of the garrison, he sent the Prince of Wales into England to raise supplies : this young Prince was not only qualified for the hardy encounters of war, but his good sense and penetration enabled him, even at this early age, to shine in the equally arduous transactions of the cabinet. His uncommon valour and amiable accomplishments rendered him so beloved by the English, that they granted him with cheerfulness the supplies he required, and submitted with readiness to his prudent regulations.

lations for their domestic quiet during the absence of his Father.

At this period the English name was raised to a pitch of eminence never known before; besides the unexampled achievements of the King and Prince, Queen Philippa, willing to shew that she was not unworthy her alliance with so warlike a family, endeavoured to rival them in noble deeds. The Scots taking advantage of the King's absence, had entered England at the head of fifty thousand men, and carried their ravages and devastations to the gates of Durham; but the Queen assembling an army of about twelve thousand men, which she entrusted to the command of Lord Piercy, marched to oppose them: she found them encamped at Neville's Cross near that city, and immediately gave orders that they should be attacked. When the armies were drawn up and ready for the engagement, this heroic Lady rode through the ranks, exhorting her troops to do their

G duty,

duty, and to strive to emulate the noble deeds of their countrymen, at Cressy: nor could she be persuaded to leave the field till they were on the point of engaging. Her intrepidity so animated the English, that their enemies were unable to withstand their impetuous attacks; they were consequently soon routed, and chased off the field, with the loss of ten thousand men. Never did the Scots receive a more fatal blow; for besides the numbers slain, among whom were many of considerable rank, the King of Scotland himself was taken prisoner, with most of his surviving Nobility.

The victorious Queen having on her return to London, secured her royal prisoner in the Tower, crossed the sea at Dover, attended by her Son, who had now executed the commission his Father had entrusted him with. She was received in the English camp before Calais with all the triumph due to her rank, her merit, and her success. In those ages gallantry was interwoven

woven with bravery in the hearts of our great ancestors; and many successive days were devoted to tournaments and feasts, to celebrate the glorious deeds of this Royal Heroine.

The town of Calais was still defended with remarkable constancy by the garrison and inhabitants; and notwithstanding the siege had continued to an unusual length, there seemed no probability of King Edward's withdrawing his troops. The French King therefore determined at last to attempt their relief: he accordingly drew together an immense army, amounting to near two hundred thousand men; but found the English Monarch so surrounded by marshes, and secured by entrenchments, that he concluded it impossible to force his battery: Philip was therefore obliged to retreat, and to disperse his troops in their several provinces, without completing his purpose.

John de Vienne, Governor of Calais; now saw the necessity of surrendering the fortress, which was reduced to the last extremity by famine and the fatigue of the inhabitants. He appeared upon the walls, and made a signal to the English centinels, that he desired a conference. Sir Walter Manny was sent to him by King Edward, to whom the Governor thus addressed himself;

"Brave Knight, the defence of this town  
"has been intrusted to me by my Sov-  
"reign; and you are witnesses with what  
"fidelity I have discharged the trust reposed  
"in me. It is almost a year since you be-  
"sieged me; during which time I have  
"endeavoured to do my duty... As we are  
"now perishing with hunger, I am willing  
"to surrender, on condition that the lives  
"and liberties of those who have bravely  
"assisted me are preserved." Sir Walter  
replied, "That as he was well acquainted  
"with the King of England's intentions,  
"he could not give him any hopes that  
"his request would be granted: he assured  
"him

" him that his Master was greatly exasperated against the townsmen of Calais for their obstinate resistance, through which he had lost a great number of valuable subjects, and therefore he was determined to take exemplary vengeance on them; nor would he receive the town under any restrictions to his anger." "Consider," returned Vienne, "that brave men are entitled to better treatment. Can your King condemn in us that fidelity and courage which he would expect from his own subjects in the same situation? Can so gallant a Prince as Edward wish to treat with severity the inhabitants of Calais, for a conduct which in the eyes of the unprejudiced merits immortal honour? far be it from me to him; but if his determination is unalterable, let him know that we will not perish unrevenged: that fortitude which has hitherto supported us through so many difficulties, will enable us to despise death, or any punishment he is able to

" inflict : we wish not however for these  
 " extremities," and recommend ourselves,  
 " courteous Knight, to your intercession in  
 " our behalf."

Sir Walter, struck with the justice of these sentiments, and the noble manner in which they were delivered, represented to the King, on his return, the loss that must unavoidably arise from driving such determined persons to desperation. His arguments prevailed, and Edward was at last persuaded to mitigate the rigour of his demands : he only insisted, that six of the most considerable citizens should be sent to him, to be disposed of as he thought proper ; that they should come to his camp barefooted, and with uncovered heads, having ropes about their necks, and carrying the keys of the city in their hands : on these conditions he promised to spare the lives of all the rest.

This determination afforded an opportunity for an exertion of the truest heroism that ever graced any age or nation. When the inhabitants of Calais were informed of this rigorous exaction, their consternation was inexpressible: though each had bravely ventured his life, and borne all the inconveniences of hunger and fatigue when it was the common lot, when supported by example, and urged by emulation, yet, where could be found a few so truly patriotic as to soar above their fellow-citizens, and to sacrifice their lives for the public benefit? A solemn silence spoke for a few moments the weakness of human nature, and the force of that innate principle, the love of life. At length one of the chief Burghers, Eustace de St. Pierre, whose name the Historian has recorded, and whose public spirit Fame will perpetuate to latest ages, stepped forth, and declared himself willing to encounter death for the safety of his companions. The sacred flame in an instant spread from breast to breast, and the

number required voluntarily offered themselves. No sooner were the victims selected and prepared for the sacrifice, than they were led to the English Monarch's tent.

Recollection of the many brave subjects he had lost from the dangers of the sea, and the change of seasons to which they had been exposed during so long a siege, rendered Edward's heart insensible to the voice of humanity, and he ordered them to be led away to immediate execution. In vain did the Prince of Wales, in whose breast mercy sat enthroned with valour, entreat his Father to spare his emaciated prisoners, whose prowess was no longer to be dreaded, and whose virtues deserved a gentler fate. Edward continued inexorable, and put a stop to his Son's solicitations by reminding him, that in the determinations of a Monarch, when a public example is required, Mercy must sometimes give place to Justice. The Prince reluctantly yielded to his Father's decision, and drew back in silence,

silence, whilst the tear of pity trickled down his cheek.

The King now repeated his nod of condemnation, and the Officers were on the point of leading the virtuous sufferers to a conclusion of their woes, when the Queen, who had hitherto sat in breathless expectation, threw herself on her knees before his Majesty: with a Mother's fondness she wished to yield the merit of their preservation to her Son, and had only aided his petition by diffusing a supplianting tenderness over her lovely countenance; but no sooner did she perceive that his intreaties were unavailing, than in an instant she was prostrate before her Husband, beseeching him, in the most pathetic terms, to moderate his rigorous sentence: "It is the first request I have made to my Lord," she cried, "since I braved the dangers of war for his glory, and the perils of the sea to shew him my duty and love: let me not therefore be denied." Edward, unable

tunable to withstand the fair Petitioner, raised her tenderly from the ground, and consigned his prisoners to her disposal. A murmur of applause, which even the presence of Royalty could not restrain, broke from the surrounding Peers, and proclaimed the triumph of Humanity.

The English nation has been ever famed for exercising a generous pity towards their vanquished enemies, whenever self-preservation did not forbid. Even the present inflexibility of King Edward was in some degree warranted by the obstinacy of his opponents: happy however was it for him, that he suffered his natural tenderness to be aroused by the intreaties of his Queen; or this act of severity would have blasted his fame, and have weighed down in the scale of justice every heroic deed he could have placed against it.

The Queen's humane interference in behalf of the deserving citizens did not end here;

here : she ordered them to be carried to her  
chamber, to which in a short time she retired,  
attended by the Prince of Wales ; there she  
caused a repast to be set before her fainished  
guests, and presenting them with money  
and clothes, dismissed them in safety. In  
return for this generous conduct she received  
the grateful offerings of their hearts, and  
the applause of admiring nations, the most  
pleasing tribute to a truly noble mind.

Immediately after King Edward had taken  
possession of Calais, the Prince of Wales  
penetrated with a strong detachment of the  
army upwards of thirty leagues into the  
kingdom of France ; and having ravaged  
the country round about unopposed, he re-  
tired again to his Father loaden with  
booty.

Whilst the King remained at Calais, a  
league was concluded, through the inter-  
cession of the Pope's Legates, between the  
contending nations, which continued with  
various

various prolongations for some years. As soon as this was settled, he returned with his family to England ; but meeting with a dreadful tempest, in which several of the ships that escorted him were lost, he could not help remarking, that in his passage to France the wind and seas always befriended him ; whereas on his return he met with adverse storms and destructive tempests. This observation probably cherished his hopes of some time or other being able to get possession of that kingdom to which the winds so readily wafted him ; an event which seems to have been his favorite wish, as some authors tell us, that he refused to accept of the dignity of Emperor of Germany, which happening about this time to be vacant, he was solicited by the Electors to receive, that it might not impede his designs on France.

The English received their victorious Monarch and his valiant Son with the loudest acclamations ; and they entered the city

city of London in triumph. The Queen also shared in the honour of the day; nor was her victory over the Scots, or her humane interposition in favour of the citizens of Calais forgotten.

During this peaceful period the English Nobles, who could not remain inactive, took great delight in jousts and tournaments, the pastimes of the age: the Prince of Wales, who was held in high respect for his worth and valour, distinguished himself in the exercise of these knightly sports; but it was not long before he was called again to action by the French, who were on the point of regaining possession of Calais by treachery.

On the surrender of that town, King Edward gave the government of it to Sir Emeric de Pavia, an Italian, who had displayed great bravery and conduct in the wars; but who was devoid of every principle of honour and fidelity. The Lord Geoffrey

Geoffrey Chartil, who commanded the French forces on the frontiers, found means to corrupt the Governor; and agreed with him to deliver up the town for twenty thousand crowns of gold. This was betrayed to Edward by one of the Secretaries of Sir Eméric, who retained his allegiance. The King soon after summoned the Italian to London on other pretences; and he, judging it impossible that a treason transacted so privately should be discovered, obeyed the summons with great readiness: but what was his surprize when he found his Royal Master acquainted with his guilt! The politic King however seeing the use which might be made of this discovery, as the terms of the agreement were not yet executed, assured the Governor of his forgiveness, on condition that he would turn the perfidious contract to the destruction of his enemies. Sir Eméric, glad to have escaped the punishment due to his disloyalty, promised his Master that he would enter with readiness into his scheme, and pursue with punctuality

# I and II

principality, any plan he should lay down. The King only insisted, that he should inform him as soon as the day was fixed, and then dismissed him.

The last night in December being agreed on between Lord Geoffrey and the Governor for the delivery of the town, the latter punctually sent notice to the King, who was then keeping his Christmas at Havering in Essex; without interrupting the festivity of his court, he marched privately to Dover, with a select body of men whom he had kept near him for that purpose, and arrived on the appointed evening at Calais. This was done with so much dispatch and secrecy, that only a few of his principal Officers knew that he was himself arrived. Having disposed of his men in different parts of the town, he appointed Sir Walter Manny to the command of the enterprize, telling him, that he would grace him with the honour of it, as both himself and the Prince of Wales intended to fight under his banner.

and suddenly

The

The Lord Geoffrey Charni having furnished himself with a chosen body of troops approached Calais about midnight : he immediately drew up his men near the walls, and sent two Squires to the gate appointed, to know if Sir Emeric was ready : finding that he was there, expecting the completion of their agreement, Lord Charni dispatched twelve Knights with two hundred men to take possession of the Castle, and at the same time to deliver the gold to the Governor : but they had scarcely entered the gates, when they were surrounded and made prisoners. Sir Walter and his forces, among whom were the King and the Prince of Wales, disguised in plain armour, now rushed out with shouts of victory. The French, finding themselves betrayed, were at first in some confusion ; but they instantly recovered from their astonishment, and a fierce and bloody engagement ensued.

As the morning broke the King remarked a French Knight, named Sir Eustace de Ribemont,

Ribemont, who exerted himself with singular vigour and bravery : as no man more admired valour, or possessed a greater share of it than himself, he was inflamed with a desire of trying a single combat with him ; he therefore stepped forth from the battalion in which he fought, and challenging him by name (for he was known to him) began a sharp encounter : the contest was long and obstinate, and the English Monarch found in the French Knight a combatant worthy his puissant arm. Twice was he beaten to the ground, and each time instantly recovering himself like Antæus, he pressed on his foe with redoubled vigour ; till Sir Eustace, finding himself almost left alone, cried out, " Brave Knight, I yield to your superior prowess ; nor blush to be overcome by strength like yours." He then gave up his sword to his unknown antagonist, and became his prisoner.

By this time the defeat was general, and of the whole French army few escaped either

death or captivity. The Prince of Wales fell not short of his Royal Father in the valorous transactions of that day. Lord Geoffrey Charni being previously wounded, was taken prisoner with several other Noblemen.

After this victory, which was happily completed on the first of January 1349, by ten in the morning, King Edward returned with his prisoners to Calais, where he treated them with the greatest courtesy, and invited them to a magnificent entertainment. On the resumption of his state the French first knew that his Majesty had been personally in this exploit; and Sir Eustace de Ribemont discovered, with pleasure, to what a noble antagonist he had delivered up his sword.

When the banquet was prepared, the King sat at a table by himself, the Prince his Son, with the Lords and Knights of England, attending at the first course; but  
at

at the second they all sat down at tables placed on each side of the hall : the French Knights were seated at one long table in the middle of it ; and the viands being removed, the King arose and entered graciously into conversation with them.

As he approached Lord Geoffrey Charni, he looked at him for a moment with some displeasure ; but that magnanimity for which his Majesty was famed soon resumed its empire in his heart, and he addressed him with complacence and familiarity. Lord Geoffrey, though sensible of the King's condescension, was unable from his wounds, and a consciousness of his intended treachery, to return any answer.

He then moved towards Sir Eustace de Ribemont, and with a friendly countenance thus spoke his approbation of the noble stand he had made against him in the field ; “ Of all men living, Sir Eustace, you are “ the Knight whom I have found most,

" as well in offending your enemies, as in  
 " defending yourself ; and I never, in my  
 " life, met with that man that gave me so  
 " much ado, body to body, as you have  
 " done this day : wherefore I adjudge the  
 " prize of Knighthood unto you, by right  
 " sentence, above all the Knights of my  
 " court \*." He then took off a chaplet  
 of pearls from his head, and presenting it  
 to his prisoner, thus continued to address  
 him : " I give you, Sir Eustace, this  
 " chaplet, for the best doer in arms at this  
 " last battle of either party, whether French  
 " or English ; and I desire you to wear it  
 " this year at festivals for my sake. You

\* I have given my Readers this speech in the language  
 of the times, as it will convey to them some idea of the  
 rough and unlettered manners of that age. The intrepid  
 and generous deeds of those unpolished Sons of War  
 wanted not the aid of rhetoric to point out their merit,  
 or to blazon them to the world. Even the language of  
 Love was then simple and unadorned ; it was the lan-  
 guage of the heart, nor needed any fallacious explana-  
 tions to ensure belief, or to render it *persuasive*.

" are a personable Gentleman, young and  
 " amorous and well accepted among the  
 " Ladies; wherefore if you will wear it in  
 " all public balls, and declare unto them,  
 " that the King of England gave this as  
 " a testimony of your valour, I will now  
 " release you, quitting you wholly of your  
 " ransom." Sir Euystace expressed his gra-  
 titude for this honourable acknowledgment;  
 and not only wore the chaplet whilst he  
 lived, but in memory of this royal gift  
 from so renowned a Prince, his family ever  
 after bore for their arms three chaplets gar-  
 nished with pearls.

This treachery of the French, attempted whilst yet the truce existed, justly re-  
 bounded on their own heads. But the  
 King of France was so enraged at the dis-  
 appointment, that, having betrayed Sir  
 Emeric de Pavia into his hands, he put him  
 to death with every mark of infamy: he

was first degraded of Knighthood \* ; then branded with a hot iron ; his tongue cut out as a punishment for his perfidy ; and after being hanged, he was beheaded and quartered as a traitor. The English Monarch sought not to revenge either this fresh breach of the truce, or his subject's death ; only from the day that he rescued Calais he gave the command of it to Lord John Beauchamp. So certain is it that the perfidious never regain the confidence of those they have betrayed.

About this time King Edward, whose mind was always intent on the attainment of honour, instituted the order of the Garter, in imitation of some orders of a like nature which had been established in different

\* When a Knight is to suffer death for any crime, he is first degraded, by having his military girdle ungirt, his sword taken away, his spurs hewn from his heels with a hatchet, his gauntlet plucked off, and his coat of arms reversed,

kingdoms : these were of two sorts, religious or military ; the principal among the former were the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, the Knights Hospitallers, the Knights Templars, and the Teutonick Knights ; orders instituted about the twelfth century, during the time of the holy wars (as they were termed) and soon after the city of Jerusalem was retaken from the Saracens by the Christians. These Knights at first were enjoined to guard the Holy Sepulchre, to protect and accommodate Pilgrims, to redeem Christian Captives, and various other duties which a residence on the spot required. But on the loss of the Holy Land, they retired to the respective countries from whence they had peregrinated, where they preserved their original institutions for some ages.

Among all the military orders instituted throughout Europe, of which there were many different denominations, the Knights of the Round Table, founded by Arthur, King of Britain, may for antiquity chal-

lenge the first place. This Prince was crowned in the year 546, when he was only fifteen years of age; and though many fabulous stories are added to his history, his name is deservedly celebrated among the heroes which have graced this island: he long propped up the declining honour of his country, and by his great example renewed the exhausted courage of his subjects. His renown for warlike achievements was so extensive, that many worthy Cavaliers came from every country to his court, both to improve themselves in chivalry, as being the seminary of military discipline, and to acquire applause by the proofs they gave of their valour,

This furnished him with an opportunity of selecting from these strangers and his own subjects, twenty-four of the most valiant Knights, whom he united in the bonds of fellowship by some regulations which have not withstood the ravages of time and ignorance. The only part of the institution

tution which we are acquainted with is, that to avoid all dispute about precedence, he caused a round table to be made for the celebration of their public feasts, from whence the order had its appellation. To this society he admitted not only Britons but Foreigners, if they were persons of nobility, and renowned for their virtue and valour; these were indispensable qualifications. The place where this order was instituted was Windsor, and the time of their convening Whitsuntide. In Winchester Castle there was a large round table, called and affirmed to be King Arthur's; or at least set up in the room of one more ancient which had been destroyed. It is not recorded that this order survived its founder: it is more probable that it expired with him; most of those Knights who had been honoured with a place at his table perishing by his side in the battle of Kamblan, now Camelsford, in Cornwall, where, though he killed his enemy Mordred, yet he fell himself.

King

King Edward, to whom the heroic virtues and military spirit of Arthur seems to have descended, being engaged in continual wars with France, made use of the same method his warlike predecessor had done, to bring to his court all the valiant Knights of the age : to this purpose, as early as the year 1344, the eighteenth of his reign, he formed the design of restoring King Arthur's round table ; he accordingly issued out orders for the safe conduct of foreign Knights, to try their skill at solemn jousts to be held near Windsor. At the time appointed great numbers of accomplished Cavaliers came to his court, whom the King entertained with great hospitality, and endeavoured to attach to his interest by every act of courtesy ; but perceiving that after their departure, being unconstrained and at liberty, some of them entered into the service of his adversary in the ensuing wars, he resolved to project some means to secure those whom he thought fit to make his associates, by more select and lasting bonds. To this

purpose he instituted the order of the Garter, which, if we consider its antiquity, and the dignity of the personages who have been enrolled therein, greatly excells every other honorary institution,

From whence it derives its denomination of the Garter is at this time uncertain : the vulgar and general opinion is, that the Countess of Salisbury dropping accidentally her garter as she danced at a ball, King Edward stooping, took it from the ground ; whereupon, seeing some of his Nobles smile, he turned it off with this reply in French, “*Honi soit qui mal y pense*—Shame be to him that evil thinks of it :” but in reproof for their laughter he further added, “ That shortly they should see that garter advanced to so high an honour, as to account themselves happy in wearing it.”

Upon examination of this tradition there appears very little reason to give it credit; for Sir John Froissart, the only cotemporary

porary writer that treats of this institution, assigns it no such origin ; nor is there any thing mentioned to that purpose by any of the English Historians for two hundred years after. Polydore Virgil was the first who took occasion to say something of it, but without ascertaining to whom the garter belonged ; cautiously declining to pronounce whether it was the King's Mistress's or the Queen's. Besides, in the original statutes of the order, there is not the least conjecture to countenance such a conceit ; and the ingenious Doctor Heylin treats this incident as a mere fable : these are his words ; " I  
 " take it to be a vain and idle romance,  
 " derogatory both to the founder and the  
 " order, first published by Polydore Virgil,  
 " a stranger to the affairs of England, and  
 " by him taken on no better ground than  
 " the tradition of the common people ;  
 " too trifling a foundation for so great a  
 " building."

Of the same contexture as the former is another tradition in Andrew du Chesne; “That the Queen departing from the King to her own apartments, and he following soon after, chanced to espy a blue garter lying on the ground; whilst some of his attendants carelessly passed it by, as disdaining to stoop for such a trifle: the King knowing the owner, commanded it to be given him; at the receipt of which he said, You make but small account of this garter; but within a few months I will cause the best of you to reverence it.” Some suppose that the motto was the Queen’s answer, when the King asked her what men would conjecture upon her losing her garter in such a manner.

Both relations are probably far distant from the fact, and an amorous instead of an honourable account has been falsely rendered of this institution. It has thus fared with other orders of sovereign foundation; as

as the order of the Annuciade in Savoy,  
and of the Golden Fleece in Burgundy.

There is a third opinion which seems to approach nearest to the truth: King Richard the First, surnamed Cœur de Lion, whilst his forces were employed in the reduction of Acon, being extremely harassed with the siege, bethought himself of a device to inspire his principal officers with fresh courage. Superstition says it was done by the assistance and mediation of Saint George. He tied a leathern garter, the best at that time to be procured, around his own leg, and those of a considerable number of Knights, thereby intending to distinguish them for their courage, and to raise a spirit of emulation among them: it had the desired effect, but was only a temporary institution.

When therefore King Edward determined to establish a lasting union among the most deserving of his Knights, it is not improbable

bable that he recollecteth this contrivance of his valiant predecessor, and approving of the method, continued it in a more grand and ceremonious manner. By this symbol he designed to bind the Knights and Fellows of it mutually to each other, and all of them jointly to himself as Sovereign of the order: at the same time intending that it should serve as an incentive to honour and martial virtue. To draw the bonds of amity more close, the King caused those who were of the order to be called Fellows, Associates, Brethren, or Knight-Companions; whilst to represent how they should be united in all the various turns of fortune, he caused them to be habited exactly alike: and as he laid claim to the kingdom of France, he inferred by the motto \*, “*Honi “soit qui mal y pense,*” that he retorted defiance

\* That age abounded with mottoes and devices; King Edward in particular was so excessively addicted to them, that his apparel, plate, beds, household furniture, shields, and even the harness of his horses were not without

defiance on him who should dare to think amiss of so just an enterprize.

Historians differ greatly about the time this order was instituted : it is probable the order of the Round Table was renewed some years before that of the Garter was established : from concurrent circumstances it appears to have been about the year 1349, the twenty-third of Edward's reign, and Windsor, where King Arthur had first celebrated his institution, was fixed on by him for the ceremony. When he had appointed the day and place, and made the necessary preparations for keeping the first grand festival of his new order, he sent his Heralds into the neighbouring kingdoms to invite all Knights to shew their military

out them. The following motto which was wrought on his surcoat and shield worn at a tournament, will serve as a specimen of them, and shew how unintelligible and insignificant they now appear.

Hay, hay, the Whyte Swan,  
By God's foul I am the man.

prowess,

prowess; and to perform other public exercises proper to the occasion. Agreeable to this invitation, many gallant Cavaliers came over to signalize their valour; and what greatly added to the splendour of the solemnity was, the presence of Queen Philippa, attended by three hundred of the fairest Ladies, bedecked with all imaginable gaiety.

St. George of Cappadocia, that gallant Christian champion and martyr, was chosen by King Edward as one of the patrons of this order, he having been always esteemed the special guardian and protector of England; from whence this order came to be styled the order of St. George. The founder also added another patron, whose name he bore himself, namely Edward the Confessor; and we find he was wont to invoke both these Saints in any great difficulties and streights. At the skirmish near Calais, lately recited, being hard pressed, he passionately cried out at every blow, Ha, St.

I

Edward!

Edward! Ha, St. George! which his soldiers hearing, they ran to his aid, and enabled him to put the French to flight.

The statutes of this institution were so judiciously devised, and compacted upon such a solid foundation of honour and dignity, that they afterwards became a precedent to other orders. It is also much in its favour that the number of the Knights-Companions have never been increased; for as they were originally twenty-six with the Sovereign, so they still continue; whilst the infringement of this restriction has brought several other military orders into contempt and ruin. No order of Knighthood was ever graced with the companionship of so many sovereign Princes; Emperors having esteemed it the summit of their glory, and the highest trophy of honour, to be enrolled in the number; it entitles those Knights and Noblemen whose virtue has raised them to this eminence, to be companions and associates with Kings;

an

an invincible prerogative, and a recompence for the greatest merit. The ordinances and obligations of this institution tend not only to fortify the minds of its Knights with courage and perseverance, but to promote the gentler virtues ; and in these the first companions selected by the royal institutor abounded in an eminent degree. On the whole, every regulation must convince posterity of the goodness of the heart and dignity of the sentiments of its founder, Edward the Third.

The Prince of Wales was the first of these illustrious Companions ; nor has succeeding ages ever produced a Knight, so fraught by nature with those virtues and accomplishments required to grace the institution.

The habit and ensigns of this order are too well known to need a minute description : the garter, the mantle, the surcoat, and the collar, contribute to make it the

most superb and becoming dress that can be devised. The materials of which they were first composed, except the mantle, are at present unknown ; but of those wrought in later ages particular accounts have been given.

The garter sent to Emanuel Duke of Savoy, in the reign of Philip and Mary, was set with letters of goldsmith's work, the buckle and pendant of the same, and on the pendant a ruby with a pearl hanging at the end. That made for the Emperor Maximilian, by order of Queen Elizabeth, was richly wrought with letters of gold, set off and garnished with stones ; the buckle and pendant weighing three ounces, were richly set with rubies and diamonds. The French King, Henry the Fourth, had one of purple velvet embroidered with letters of gold, and decked with diamonds and rubies. But the garter sent to Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, by Charles the First, outvied all others conferred by former Sovereigns ;

reigns; each letter of the motto being composed of small diamonds, and for every stop a diamond, within a range of the same on the sides of the garter; which, including those on and about the buckle, amounted to four hundred and eleven,

The form of the mantle is similar to the ancient pallium or toga of the Greeks and Romans. Those prepared by command of the founder against the first feast of this order appear to have been of fine woollen cloth; and it is not improbable, that this material was chosen by him rather than anything richer, to give a preference to the manufactory of his own country; how long these continued to be worn is uncertain; but the first time we discover them to be made of velvet, is about the beginning of the reign of Henry the Sixth. The colour of them was originally blue, or as it was sometimes termed of celestial colour; in the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was changed to purple; but they were restored to their

former hue by a particular order of King Charles the First, at the installation of his Son the Prince of Wales. The left shoulder of each of these mantles have, from the institution, been adorned with a large fair garter containing the motto of the order: within this garter are the arms of St. George, viz. *argent a cross gules*, which heretofore was wrought in satin with gold, silver, and silk; but in descending times greater expence and magnificence became the practice of the order, for it was embroidered upon velvet with damask, gold, and several sorts of twists; the letters of the motto and borders of the garter being composed of fair oriental pearl. The garter fixed upon the mantle of King Charles the Second was encircled with large oriental pearls; as were not only the letters of the motto, but the cross within.

The surcoat or kirtle, the third ensign of the order, answers to the tunica of the Romans, and was worn like that next under the

the toga : it was girt close to the body with a girdle, and so fitted, that the hem of it reached a little below the knee. It was by this part of the dress of the Roman citizens, that the three degrees among them were distinguished ; for the Senators tunicks were embroidered or purfled over with broad purple studs, those of the Knights with narrow ones; and those worn by the Plebeians were plain. The colour of this vesture was anciently changed every year ; commonly into blue, scarlet, sanguine in grain, or white ; but in the thirty-fourth year of King Edward's reign he altered it to black, and was followed by the Companions of the order. The motive that induced him to fix on this sable colour, was supposed to be a kind of humiliation on account of the pestilence, which then began again to spread its malignancy with as much fury as it had raged eleven years before. This garment, at the time of instituting the order, and for a long time after, was powdered all over with little garters,

embroidered with silk and gold plate; on each of which was neatly wrought the motto: the numbers of these garters declared the degrees of honour of the wearers; a Duke having one hundred and twenty, and a Knight Bachelor but sixty; the intermediate titles of Marquis, Earl, &c, decreasing gradually.

The ornaments of the collar and George in their present form were made a part of the dress of Henry the Eighth, who took great delight in embellishing the order. Before the establishment of this article by King Henry, it appears that the Knights-Companions were invested with collars at their installations, but whether collars of S S's, or of any other model, is not specified.

It may not here be amiss to insert an account of the origin of collars, particularly of those which have the letters S S on them, their foundation being little known. Collars

Jars in general are ornaments not of a late but ancient invention: sacred writ enumerates the collar of gold among the ornaments conferred upon Joseph by Pharaoh. The images of Isis and Osiris, worshiped by the Egyptians, were represented with collars extending to their shoulders, the workmanship of which were very curious, being intersected with various lines, and divided with tablets and precious stones: the collar was also of an illustrious original among the Romans, and gave denomination to the family of the Torquati, descended from L. Manlius, whom the soldiers surnamed Torquatus; because having vanquished a champion of the Gauls, he cut off his head, then plucked off his collar, bloody as it was, and put it about his own neck,

In pristine times, as none but Kings and Princes wore collars, their use betokened dignity and power; afterwards they were bestowed on men famous for wisdom

wisdom and for military atchievements as a distinguishing badge, and in recompence for their merit. Most aptly therefore have the Sovereigns of military orders annexed this ornament of the collar to their habit, and conferred it on the Fellows and Companions, most of whom are supposed to have meritoriously deserved it, for their great wisdom and military exploits ; and for this reason it was instituted as an additional glory to the ensigns of the garter : it is composed of gold, coupled together by several pieces of links in fashion of garters, with a vermillion rose between, and the image of St. George hung thereat.

The collar of S S's worn as a badge of lower and inferior honour, was made use of originally by a society of noble personages, in remembrance of Simplicius and Faustinus, Senators of Rome, who suffered martyrdom for the sake of Christianity in the reign of Dioclesian. It is thus described in an ancient manuscript. "It was

" the custom of those persons to wear about  
 " their necks silver collars composed of  
 " double S's, which denote the name of  
 " St. Simplicius; the collar consisted of  
 " twelve small plates of silver, on which  
 " were engraven the twelve articles of the  
 " creed, together with a single trefoil: the  
 " image of St. Simplicius hung at the col-  
 " lar, and from it seven plates representing  
 " the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost. As  
 " to the manner of their martyrdom, they  
 " were bound together by the neck to a  
 " stone, and thrown over the bridge into  
 " the Tyber."

In the ancient creation of an Esquire, part  
 of the ceremony was the King's putting about  
 his neck one of these silver collars; a golden  
 one was the undoubted badge of a Knight.  
 Among the variety of these collars worn  
 are the following: That belonging to the  
 Lord Mayor of the city of London, which  
 is composed of gold, having a knot like one  
 of those which tie the garters together in  
 the

the great collar of the order of St. George, inserted between two S's ; these again are situated between two roses, and in the middle of it before the breast is a large portcullis, whereat hangs a jewel set with diamonds. The collars of the Lord Chief Justices of both the Benches, and the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, formed of the letter S and of knots, are in memory of the said St. Simplicius, who, being a Senator, was consequently a dispenser of the laws.

The most ancient ceremony used on conferring of Knighthood was by putting the belt which supported the sword loose over the shoulders, or girding it close about the waste. In the time of the Saxons some religious formalities were added, such as watching, fasting, bathing, and consecrating the sword ; inferring from the observance of these rights, that decency of habit was as well expected from them as integrity of life and purity of manners. The like religious ceremony was formerly observed

observed in other kingdoms ; the person to be knighted was bathed in the evening, and laid in bed ; then clothed in rich robes, and led to the church to perform his vigils : that being over and mass heard, his spurs were put on, and his sword girt about him, then drawn out and put into his right hand ; whereupon the oath was forthwith administered to him ; which taken, he that bestowed the dignity gave him a blow or stroke on the neck, saying, " God assist you in the performance of your promise." The oath or vow the Knights at this time made, was in general to relieve and protect the widow and the fatherless, the oppressed and miserable, and to defend the Church of God. These ceremonious methods have been abolished for some ages ; and even in the century we treat of, were performed in a more expeditious manner. Before the joining of a battle it was usual for the Prince or General in the field, on sight of the adverse army, to give those whom he thought fit to advance to that honour, (they

humbly

humblly kneeling before him) a gentle stroke with the flat part of a naked sword on their shoulders, without any other ceremony, except pronouncing, “ Rise, Sir Knight, &c.” This mode is still continued, and termed dubbing, the old English word for creating a Knight; from “ doopen,” to dip; bathing, as before observed, being part of the procedure.

The admonitions originally given at the installation of a Knight of the Garter were as follow; some variation has been since made to accommodate them to the alteration of the national religion. Whilst the ceremony of investiture with the mantle is performing, the words are these: “ Take this mantle of heavenly colours, in sign and token of the most honourable order you have received, and to the increase of your honour, signed and marked as you see, ~~you will~~ a red escutcheon of our Lord’s cross, to the intent that you, being always ~~well~~ defended by the virtue and strength thereof,

" thereof, may pass through your enemies,  
 " and them also overcome and vanquish;  
 " so that at the last, for your worthy and  
 " approved acts, you may, after this tem-  
 " poral chivalry, come to eternal triumphancy  
 " joys in Heaven." On the investiture  
 with the collar the following words are also  
 pronounced: " To the increase of your ho-  
 " nour, and in token of the honourable  
 " order you have received; take this collar  
 " about your neck, with the image of the  
 " holy Martyr and Christ's Knight, St.  
 " George, by whose aid you being de-  
 " fended, may pass through the prosperities  
 " and adversities of this world, that having  
 " here the victory as well of your ghostly  
 " as bodily enemies, you may not only re-  
 " ceive the glory and renown of temporal  
 " chivalry, but also at the last, the endless  
 " and everlasting reward of victory." Such  
 part of the statutes of the order, as they  
 were reformed and explained by King Henry  
 the Eighth, necessary for our present pur-  
 pose, I shall insert in the manner they  
 were

were originally spelt. Whereas the moost famous, moost happiest, and victorious Prynce Edward, the Thirde of that name, his noble Progenitour sometyme Kyng of England and of Fraunce, and Lord of Irland, &c. To th' onnoure of Almighty God, and of the blessed and immaculate Virgyn Marie, and the blessed Martir Sainte George, patron of the right noble roialme of England; and of Saynt Edward, Kyng and Confessor; to the exaltation of the holy faith Catholique, ordeyned, establisched, created, and founded within the Castel of Wyndesore, a company of twenty-six noble and worthi Knyghtes, for to be of the moost noble ordre of Saynt George; named the Gartier, and for the honorable continuance, augmentation, and interteyning of the same.

The seid moost victorious Kyng did devyse and institute divers honorable estatuts, and laudable ordinances, for to be observed and kept by the cobrethren and confreres, Knyghtes

Knyghtes and Companyons of the said  
 moost noble ordre; amonge the which  
 estatutes been certeyne doubtis and ambi-  
 guities, which to be more playnly declared,  
 interpreted, and extended, it is thought  
 right necessary and expedient, and that cer-  
 teyne other new ordinances and articles be  
 to the said estatute added and adjoyned.  
 Wherefore the said moost excellent and vic-  
 torious Prynce, Henry VIII. Kyng of Eng-  
 land and of Fraunce, Defensor of the Faith,  
 and Lord of Irland, and Soverayne of the  
 said moost noble order; and for the right  
 singular love, good zeal, ardent and intier  
 affection that his royll Majestie hath and  
 bearith to the said moost noble ordre, and  
 to the estate of Chivalrie and Knyghthood,  
 and for the honorable contynuance and in-  
 creasing the same; and also at the humble  
 requeste and instante desire of the Knyghtes  
 and Companyons of the said noble order,  
 and by their advyse, councell, and assent,  
 the twenty-third day of April, in the year of  
 grace MDXXII. and of his moost noble

K

reygn

reygn the eighth year, made interpretacion and declaracion of the obscurities, doubtis, and ambiguities of the said estatutis, ordinances, interpretacions, declaracions, reformacions, with their addicions aforesaid, after the trew intencion of them, shall be from henceforth observed, kept, and ensued by the Soverayne, and the Knyghtes Confreres and Companyons of the said noble ordre in manner and fourme following.

In the seconde statute is accorded, That none shall be elected and chosen for to be Fellow or Companyon of the said moost noble ordre, except that he be a Gentilman of blood, and that he be a Knyghte, and without reproche. And that the Knyghtes of the said noble ordre, from henceforth, shall not name any person in their election to be Fellow or Companyon of the said noble order, in whom thei shall thynke or extiem in their conscience to have spotte of reproche. And as towchyng the declaracion of a Gentleman of blode, it is declared and determined

determined that he shall be descended of three decentis of noblesse, that is to say, of name and of arms, both of his father's side, and also of his mother's side. And as towchynge or concernyng any manner of reproche, for as moche as there be divers and many fundry poyntis of reproche, there shall be here declared but three poyntis of them oonly, as it is declared in manner and fourme folowyng.

The first poynt of reproche ys, That if any Knyght (as God defende) be convaynqed or attaynted, of error agaynst the Cristen Faith Catholique, or had for any suche offence suffered any Payne or punicion publique. The second poynt of reproche ys, That if any Knyght (as God defende) had been arrayned, convicted, or attaynted of high treason. The third poynt of reproche ys, That if any Knyght departe or flee away from batayle or journie, beyng with his Soverayne Lord, his Lieutenant or Deputie, or other Capetayne, having the

Kyng's power royal and auctoritie: and whereas banners estandatz, or pennions have bene displaied, and that thei preceded to fight, he that then reniously and cowardly flieth or departeth away from thens, ought to be esteemed and judged to have reproche, and never worthi to be elected Knyght of the companie as (God forbidde) do commyte any suche reproche; that then he shall be departed and disgraded of the said order, at the next chaptier ensuyng, if it soo shall please the Soverayne and Companie.

The joy and triumph which reigned in the court of England on account of this institution, which concluded with military sports and tournaments, was suddenly changed into sorrow and mourning by a terrible and destructive pestilence, which invaded that kingdom as well as the rest of Europe, and is supposed to have carried off about one-fourth of the inhabitants in every country where it prevailed. In the first six months of this year, fifty-seven thousand

thousand persons are said to have died of it in London and Norwich ; the church-yards were not found sufficient for the burial of the dead. This dreadful distemper spread into Wales and Ireland, and proved chiefly fatal to the common people : none of the better sort died of the infection, except three or four of the Nobility, and Jane, King Edward's second daughter, who was seized with it at Bourdeaux in her way to Castile, where she was to have been married to the Infant Don Pedro, son of Alphonso, Sovereign of that kingdom. When the contagion among the human species abated, the sheep and cattle perished in vast numbers ; and no bird or beast of prey would touch their carcases, so that they lay putrefying on the surface of the ground, and by their intolerable stench contributed to increase the pernicious quality of the air. The corn was lost for want of hands to reap and gather it ; and hence ensued a dreadful dearth of all kind of provisions. The Scots, tempted by the prospect of an easy prey in

this season of death and desolation, made an irruption into the northern counties, and, together with a large booty, carried back the contagion to their own country, where it raged with uncommon violence : a just reward for so flagrant a breach of the laws of prudence and humanity. This dreadful calamity, rather than the pacific dispositions of the contending Princes, served to maintain and prolong the truce between France and England,

In the beginning of the following summer, some variance happening between the fleets of England and Spain, the Spaniards, secretly encouraged by the French, infested the British seas with fifty large ships of war ; taking and destroying a great number of vessels, King Edward enraged at these dishonourable proceedings, for the nations were not at war with each other, fitted out a considerable fleet to oppose them ; taking with him his Son the Prince of Wales, now in his twentieth year, with many Noblemen

blemen of distinction, he came up with these plunderers off Rye in Sussex, when a fierce engagement immediately began. The Spaniards in their huge carracks, overlooking the English vessels, poured down upon them a storm of cross-bow shot, stones, and bars of iron; but the archers of England soon clearing the decks, they boarded them with their swords and battle-axes in their hands, and before the evening put an end to the fight, made themselves masters of seventeen: the next morning the English wished to renew the engagement, but they found that the greatest part of their enemy's ships had escaped by favour of the night, leaving those that were disabled to their mercy. Having thus cleared the seas of such troublesome interlopers, the King returned in triumph laden with spoil.

Soon after the King and Prince's return, a very remarkable combat was tried before them: a dispute having arisen between John de Vescont, a Nobleman nearly allied to

the King of Cyprus, and Thomas de la Marche, natural brother to the King of France, it was agreed to refer their cause to King Edward, as he was allowed to be the most heroic Prince, and the best judge in every point of honour of any Potentate in Christendom. These two Knights, fighting under the banners of Constantine King of Armenia, and Hugh King of Cyprus, Christian Princes, at that time engaged in a war against the Infidels, a quarrel arose between them, in which de Vesconti charged de la Marche with taking a sum of gold to betray the Christian army into the hands of their enemies. The Princes under whom they served not choosing to determine their dispute, as there were no other proofs than their single affieverations, they agreed to stand by the award of the English Monarch; accordingly the two Knights arrived in England the beginning of September, when the former openly before the King and his court repeated his accusations against the latter, challenging him to disprove it on his body;

body : he then threw down his gauntlet, which Sir Thomas as boldly took up, and accepted the challenge in proof of his innocence.

King Edward appointed the fourteenth day of October for the decision of their quarrel, in close field within the lists, at his palace of Westminster : on that day the combatants came on horseback, armed at all points, the King, the Prince of Wales, and the whole court of England being spectators. On sound of trumpet the combat began ; but at the first tilt both their spears breaking on each other's shield, without either of them being moved from their saddles, they both alighted at the same instant, and renewed the fight on foot ; for a considerable time they fought with equal valour and conduct, till both their weapons being rendered useless, they came to close grapple, and fell together locked in each other's gripe : the visors of both their helmets were defended with small distant bars of steel, through

through which they might see and breathe more freely, and all the rest of their bodies covered with armour: from this circumstance the advantage turned in favour of Sir Thomas de la Marche; for that Knight having sharp pieces of steel, called gadlings, inclosed in the joints of his right gauntlet, he therewith struck at the visor of his adversary, and grievously wounded him through the crevices: Sir John de Vesconti being unprovided with the same weapon of offence, cried out aloud, that he could no longer defend himself; whereat the King threw down his warder, which put an end to the combat.

His Majesty then adjudged the victory to the Frenchman, and the vanquished to be at his mercy according to the law of arms. Sir Thomas, satisfied with so plain and honourable a proof of his innocence (as this was then esteemed) forbore to use his power over his enemy, but made a present of him to the Prince of Wales, to be at his discretion:

tion : after which, in testimony of his gratitude, he dedicated his own suit of armour to St. George the patron of England, with great pomp and devotion, in the cathedral church of St. Paul in London. The generous Prince of Wales gave Sir John de Vesconti his full liberty, for the sake of the King of Cyprus, whom he respected for his valour ; and after treating him with great courtesy, suffered him to return home at his leisure.

In this year Philip de Valois the French King died, without being able to re-establish the affairs of France, leaving behind him the character of a cruel and perfidious Prince ; his treatment of John Count de Mountfort establishes the justice of this imputation. It had been stipulated at the conclusion of the last truce, that the Count should be released from prison on his giving security that he would conform to the terms of the truce ; yet, notwithstanding sufficient security was offered, and a formal decree

decree passed in the parliament of Paris for his enlargement, Philip refused to set him free. Avarice and ambition seem to have had a share in this determination, as it is well known that he refused to release his prisoner, unless he would deliver up Brest and Hennebon to him, and renounce all claim to the Duchy of Britany. But of all the crimes of this faithless and perjured Monarch, none stained his character with a more indelible mark of infamy, and rendered him more the object of universal hatred and detestation, than his treatment of Oliver de Clisson, who had served him and Charles de Blois with great zeal and ability, Oliver had been taken prisoner at the siege of Namur, and being given up by King Edward in exchange for Lord Stafford, in preference to another Knight whom Philip would rather have chosen, that King, naturally suspicious, imagined he had entered into some private agreement with Edward: actuated by this suspicion he ordered him to be seized and thrown into prison; soon

after his arrest, this unfortunate Nobleman was beheaded at Paris without form or trial, his body hung on a gibbet, and his estate confiscated. The Britons were so highly incensed at this cruel and tyrannical proceeding, that the inhabitants of Vannes expelled the garrison, and declared in favour of the Count de Mountford. These circumstances, instead of opening the eyes of Philip to a sense of his own crimes, served only to strengthen his suspicions ; and as he knew no other way of keeping people in their duty but by force and terror, he immediately gave orders for apprehending ten other Noblemen of Britany, who, though they had all distinguished themselves in the service of Charles de Blois, were put to death in the same ignominious manner that had been practised on Oliver de Clisson. His treachery was no less conspicuous in another instance ; for having set up a round table in opposition to that of King Edward, and issued safe-conducts for the protection of all strangers, he seized several Lords of the

the Count de Mountfort's party, and put them to death, contrary to the rules of chivalry and of honour.

He was succeeded by his son John, a Prince unlike his Father, distinguished by many virtues, particularly by a scrupulous honour and fidelity: he was not deficient in personal courage, but he wanted that prudence and foresight which the perplexed situation of his kingdom, at that time convulsed by intestine commotions, and oppressed by foreign wars, required. Charles King of Navarre, who received and deserved the epithet of Wicked, was continually fomenting divisions among the King of France's subjects, and giving him perpetual disquietude, although allied to him by blood and marriage.

No sooner therefore was the truce between England and France expired, than King Edward took advantage of his competitor's embarrassment, and prepared to re-

new

new once more his claims on that crown : to this purpose he proposed to attack his enemy both on the side of Guienne with an army commanded by the Prince of Wales, and on the northern parts in his own person. In prosecution of this plan young Edward sailed for Bourdeaux, on board a fleet of three hundred sail, attended by the Earls of Warwick, Salisbury, Oxford, Suffolk, and other English Noblemen. Immediately after his arrival, being joined by the vassals of Gascoigné, he took the field ; reduced without interruption many towns in the neighbouring provinces, and ravaged the whole country : after an incursion of six weeks, he returned with a vast booty and many prisoners to Guienne, where he took up his winter quarters. King Edward's invasion from Calais was of the same nature, and attended with the same issue.

In the ensuing summer the Prince of Wales, encouraged by the success of the preceding campaign, took the field with an army

army of twelve thousand men, of which not more than four thousand were English. All Historians agree that this was the utmost amount of the forces with which he performed such wondrous deeds, and gained immortal honour. With this small body of troops the Prince ventured to penetrate again into the heart of France: his design was to join his brother John of Gaunt, to whom King Edward had given the command of an army in Normandy; but finding all the bridges on the Loire broken down, and King John advancing towards him with a most formidable force, he thought it prudent to retire again into his Father's dominions without persisting in his attempt.

The Prince losing some days before the Castle of Remorentin, it gave the French army, which was nearer than he had expected, an opportunity of overtaking him. The following unexpected incident occasioned this hindrance, and was the means of bringing

bringing on a battle near Poictiers : part of his van guard falling in with a detachment of the garrison of Remorentin as they marched near it, they soon defeated them, and in the pursuit entering the town with the flying enemy, took possession of it : the Prince, tempted from this accident to make himself master also of the Castle, ordered it to be assaulted ; the attack continued all that day without success, and the next morning it was briskly renewed, the Prince himself being personally present and encouraging his men ; but an English Knight, for whom he had a great regard, being slain as he stood near him, he swore by his Father's soul (his most solemn oath) not to leave the siege till he was in possession of the Castle, and had the defenders of it at his mercy : on this the assault was renewed with redoubled vigour ; but there appearing no probability of reducing it by the ordinary methods, the Prince ordered engines to be raised, with which he threw combustibles into it and set it on fire : the

garrison finding the Castle no longer tenable, yielded themselves to him, and were carried off among the other prisoners.

After the taking of Remorentin the Prince continued his march ; but this delay gave the French King time to overtake him near Poictiers. King John was accompanied by his four Sons, Charles the Dauphin Duke of Normandy, Lewis Duke of Ajjou, John Duke of Berry, and Philip afterwards Duke of Burgundy, who for bravely endeavouring to defend his Father in the ensuing battle, was surnamed the Hardy \* ; besides whom he was attended by

\* Other Historians say, that Philip afterwards acquired this appellation from the following incident: When he was prisoner in England, his Father King John being at dinner with the English Monarch, this young Prince, among the Nobility of both nations, was appointed to wait on them. An English Nobleman serving his Master before his royal Prisoner, the impetuous Prince, fired at the indignity, as he esteemed it, struck him on the face, saying at the same time, " How dare you to serve the King of England first, when the King of France sits at the

by twenty-six Dukes and Counts, three thousand Knights, and an army of sixty thousand men. With this host, as it might justly be termed when compared with the handful of English forces, the French King doubted not of being able to extirpate his enemies; he therefore marched after them with the utmost expedition, assured of success.

The first intelligence the Prince of Wales received of his near approach, was from some prisoners taken by one of his detached parties; by these he understood the force of his enemy, and that it was hardly possible for him to escape: on which he called in all his detachments, and encamped on the fields of Maupertius near Poictiers; he then

"the same table?" The Nobleman drew his dagger, and was on the point of sacrificing the Prince to his injured honour, when King Edward loudly forbade him, and turning to the royal Youth said, "Vous etes  
\*\* Phillip le Hardi;" from henceforward he was termed Philip the Bold.

sent out two hundred men at arms, well-mounted, under the command of the Captain de Busche, to reconnoitre the French, who found King John entering with his army into Poictiers: this undaunted party rode so near that they had a full view of the main body of the French; and not content with seeing them, they attacked their rear with such fury, that the King caused a considerable party of his army to face about and march again into the field; by which means it was very late before they re-entered the city. The English detachment returning unbroken to the Prince, informed him of their adventure; and at the same time, though fear increased not the numbers, described their enemies as exceedingly numerous. "Well then," said the Prince with great composure, "let us consider how we may fight them to the best advantage, for against number policy is requisite;" and agreeable to this maxim he took every precaution during the night to fortify his camp.

The

The next morning the King of France drew out his army in battle array ; he gave the command of the van to his Brother Philip Duke of Orleans, the center to his Son the Dauphin, who had his two younger Brothers under him, and led the rear himself, attended by his youngest Son : when his troops were formed, he came to the front of the line mounted on a large white courser ; he then told them, that, as whilst they were at a distance from the English, and in a place of safety, they were continually boasting of their prowess, and wishing to be in arms against them, he had now brought them to the station they had so often desired, and expected they would give him proofs that their eagerness was not mere bravado.

He then ordered them to march ; but at that instant the Cardinal de Talierande, who had been sent by the Pope to be a mediator between the contending nations, interposed his good offices, and intreated the King

that he would halt a moment, whilst he hastened to the Prince of Wales, and endeavoured to prevent the spilling so much Christian blood. To this the French Monarch consented, on condition that he would quickly return; which the Cardinal promised to do, and then hastened to the English Prince, whom he found armed at the head of his men: the Cardinal represented to him the danger of his situation from the great superiority of his enemies, and urged him to listen to proposals rather than await a certain destruction. The Prince, sensible that the apprehensions of the Ecclesiastic were well founded, but at the same time undaunted and resolute, answered, that he was ready to accept of any conditions which were not inconsistent with his own honour and that of his country. His Excellency returned with this compliant answer to the French King, and with many arguments prevailed on him to defer the attack till the next day. The Cardinal, as well as all the Prelates of the court of Rome, was extremely

tremely attached to the French interest; yet the most determined enemy could not have contrived a greater prejudice to their cause than by this delay, as the Prince during the night had time to strengthen the post he had before judiciously chosen.

The negotiation however proved fruitless; for though the Prince offered to relinquish all the conquests he had made, to release without ransom all the prisoners he had taken, and also to swear that he would not bear arms in person against the French for seven years, yet the King insisted that he should surrender himself a prisoner, with a hundred of his principal Knights; on these conditions only would he suspend his vengeance; and allow the rest of the English forces to retire unmolested. To these dishonourable proposals young Edward replied with an air of indignation, " That whatever was his fate, he could not so far forget the respect that was due to his Father's dignity and his own honour, as

" to save his life on inglorious terms; nor  
 " could he ever consent that England should  
 " be obliged to pay a ransom for him." He therefore rejected them as worse than death. The Prince delivered this determinate answer to the Cardinal with all the fire of an exalted mind; whilst his troops, by their cheerful looks, expressed their approbation, and promised him support.

Soon after the Prelate's departure, a battle appearing unavoidable, surrounded by his general officers, the Prince thus harangued his army: " I have too often,  
 " my friends, had experience of your courage, to doubt it at this time; frequently have I beheld you, inspired by  
 " the spirit of your great ancestors, perform such deeds as prove you are not in  
 " the least degenerated from them; no labour has ever appeared to be painful to  
 " you, no fortress impregnable, no army  
 " invincible, no human power formidable.  
 " I now see on your faces a generous indig-  
 " nation

" nation at the contempt with which your  
 " enemies treat the descendants of those va-  
 " liant heroes, who have often foiled these  
 " haughty Frenchmen, have won the Isle  
 " of Cyprus, overcome the Saracens,  
 " obliged Scotland to receive their yoke,  
 " Wales to accept of their laws, and Ireland  
 " to become mild and tractable: repay the  
 " insult with your swords, and let them  
 " see how dangerous it is to provoke the  
 " truly brave: let not numbers terrify you;  
 " valour and steadiness will compensate for  
 " the thinness of your ranks, and a few  
 " undaunted hearts may be able to with-  
 " stand the attacks of a tumultuous host:  
 " these brave Knights which surround me  
 " will share with us in every danger;  
 " therefore follow your standards with re-  
 " solution, and doubt not of winning this  
 " day eternal renown."

This speech might appear like a bravado from almost any other mouth; but the Prince of Wales's modesty is too well known

known to permit such an interpretation : on this occasion, when his small army was in danger of being swallowed up by a multitude of foes, every method of arousing their courage to the top of its bent, and by that means endeavouring to supply the deficiency of their numbers, was certainly to be pursued. The greatest Generals have allowed, that a recapitulation of the valiant actions of their ancestors, or their own former achievements, is the most probable mode of exciting an army to gallant deeds, and so raising up a spirit of emulation amongst them. It had the desired effect ; every apprehension was, in a moment dispelled by this animated speech, and his men waited with impatience the approach of their enemies.

The situation which the Prince of Wales had chosen for the preservation of his little army, shewed his expertness in every military manœuvre : he had drawn up his men on a small plain surrounded by vineyards and inclosures ;

inclosures ; so that the French could only attack him in front, and that through a narrow lane which would admit of no more than four horsemen a-breast : this natural fortification which surrounded his camp, he had strengthened by art during the negotiation carried on through the Cardinal ; and had lined the hedges of the lane with archers, who, being themselves free from hesitation, could take their aim with composure : he had also, in the night, ordered the Lord John Grielly, Captain de Boulle, to march under covert of a hill which lay to the right, with three hundred men at arms, and as many archers, that he might be ready to fall on the enemy's flank during the engagement. He had given the command of the van to the Earl of Warwick, the rear to the Earls of Salisbury and Suffolk, taking his own stand at the head of the main body : the Lords Chandos, Audley, and many other brave and experienced Commanders, were at the head of different

ferent battalions. In this position the Prince awaited the attack.

The French King, who was well acquainted with the situation of the English, ordered the Mareschals d'Endregan and Clermont to advance with a strong detachment of men at arms, and endeavour to force their way through the lane; but no sooner were they entered, than the English archers made such havock among them, that being thrown into confusion, very few penetrated to the plain, and these met with so warm a reception from the men at arms, that a small number only escaped; one of the Mareschals was killed, and the other taken prisoner; the remainder of this advanced party, who were still in the lane, harrassed by the arrows of the English archers without being able to oppose them, recoiled upon their own army and put every thing into confusion.

In this critical moment the Capital de Busche unexpectedly appeared, and attacked in flank the battalion that was led on by the Duke of Normandy, which greatly added to the disorder. The Generals to whose care the Heir of the French Monarch and his Brothers were committed, too anxious for their charge, or intimidated at the resolution of the English, carried them off the field, and set an example of flight to the whole division. The Duke of Orleans, seized with a similar panic, imagining from the flight of the Dauphin's division that every thing was lost, thought it prudent to sound a retreat ; but as he could not long preserve any order in retiring, his intended retreat was likewise soon changed into a flight.

The Lord John Chandos, seeing the van of the French wholly defeated, and their main body disordered, called out to the Prince of Wales that the day was won, and advised him immediately to march forward  
and

and to attack the division under the King : his Highness needing no solicitation mounted his horse, and boldly advancing, fell with great impetuosity on some German brigades under the command of the Counts of Nassau, Saltsburgh, and Neydo, posted in front of the King's battalion. A dreadful encounter now ensued, in which the Prince even exceeded the gallantry he had shewn at Cressy : at length the three German Generals, with the Duke of Athenes, Constable of France, being slain, that body of cavalry gave way, and left the King's division exposed to all the fury of a victorious enemy.

The French Monarch having been told that his Sons and his Brother had withdrawn from the battle, declared aloud, That for his part he would not quit the field though his whole army should forsake him ; and indeed it is allowed that he performed that day the duty of a valiant Knight : had his valour been seconded by only a fourth part

of his troops, success must have crowned his efforts to retrieve the honour of the day. He fought on foot with a weighty axe of steel in his hand, which he managed with great dexterity and resolution : his youngest Son Philip, at that time not fourteen years old, fought courageously by his side : he was also surrounded by many valiant Knights, who endeavoured to defend their Sovereign ; amongst others the Duke of Bourbon, the Lord of Pons, the Count de Vaudour, the Lord John of Artois, and Sir Eustace de Ribemont, who had been vanquished by King Edward at Calais, and released by him without ransom as a reward for his courage.

On the part of the English, the Prince of Wales was no less conspicuous for his valour than for his station and quality ; performing not only the duties of an experienced and careful Commander, but also those of an approved and valiant Knight : his Nobles likewise behaved with uncom-

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than bravery and resolution, particularly the Lord John Chandos, who for his courage and conduct merited the greatest encomiums. But it is impossible to recount the many noble exploits of the English Nobility; the Earls of Oxford, Salisbury, and Suffolk rendered themselves famous by their great achievements; and the Earl of Warwick fought so long, and with such fury, that his battle-axe cleaved to his hand; the Lord Audeley fought all day among the thickest of his enemies, performing many gallant deeds, and receiving many deep wounds; notwithstanding which he could not be prevailed on to leave the field till towards the conclusion of the battle, when his Squires carried him by force to an adjacent meadow, where they carefully disarmed him, and binding up his wounds, refreshed him as well as they could: these gallant Knights were well supported by those of inferior rank, more especially by the archers, who behaved themselves with wonderful constancy and alacrity; from them all the French

French divisions received their first foil, for being galled and dismayed by their arrows, they were easily broken by the men at arms.

The battalion of French under the command of the King, which still kept its station, was superior in number to the whole English army, and composed of the flower of that nation; but the Prince of Wales and his undaunted troops, though greatly fatigued with the toils of the day, boldly attacked this fresh and numerous division: the success which had hitherto attended their arms supported them under this apparent disadvantage, and kept their hopes alive: the fight now became desperate, and for a while was well maintained on both sides; for the French King's presence and example animated his men with uncommon resolution; only troops accustomed to conquest, and led on by their beloved Prince, could have withstood such intrepidity; however after a stout resistance this last division of the French was also

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broken, and a great slaughter ensued. The Duke of Bourbon, the Viscount Chalons, the Lord of Argentum, and fifty Noblemen of the highest quality, breathed their last on this well-disputed field; even Sir Eustace de Ribemont, who had so bravely encountered King Edward, could not withstand the potent arm of his Son.

The forces which fought immediately under the royal banner of France were still so numerous, and disputed the point so well, that for a time they remained impenetrable, and atoned for the cowardice of their countrymen; but the English and Gascon Lords at length broke their way through this compact phalanx and reached the King: the royal standard was beaten down, and its bearer, the valiant Lord Geoffrey Charni, slain. This circumstance seemed to be a signal for a general flight, and those who could escape fled with precipitation into Poictiers.

In the first breaking of the corps that encircled his Majesty, the Lord Jaines of Bourbon, Count de Ponthieu; Lord John of Artois, Count d'Eu; and Charles his Brother, Count de Tankerville, were taken prisoners by the Captal de Busche; and many other Knights surrendered themselves to the most advanced of the English Nobles. Impelled both by the love of glory and of gain, the attention of every person now appeared to be only engaged on taking the King: those who knew him called out to him to surrender; but Sir Dennis de Morbeque, a Knight of Artois, who had left France on account of a murder he had committed at St. Omers, and who had served King Edward about five years, by his superior strength making way to his Majesty, desired him to yield: "To whom shall I surrender myself?" said the King, "Where is my Cousin the Prince of Wales? to him alone would I wish to submit." "The Prince," replied de Morbeque, "is at a distance; I am myself M 2 a Knight,

"a Knight, and will conduct you to him." On which the King gave him his right-hand gauntlet, saying at the same time, "Unto you I yield myself." This not appearing satisfactory to several who had made up to the King before Sir Dennis, there was still a great tumult and crowding about both him and his youngest Son Philip, who had shared his Father's fortune, and his Majesty was taken by force from de Morbeque. It appears that John de Pelham (afterwards on this account knighted) was the first that came up to the King, and laid hold of his belt; but Sir Roger de la Warre got possession of his sword. In commemoration of these services, and the honour thus attained, the descendants of Sir John de Pelham used the buckles of a belt for their arms, and those of Sir Roger de la Warre the chape of a sword.

The Prince of Wales, who had been carried away in pursuit of the flying enemy to

to a considerable distance from this scene, finding the greatest part of the field clear, had ordered a tent to be pitched, where he repos'd himself after the toils of the battle. His first inquiries were relative to the King of France; but not being able to hear any tidings of him, he dispatched the Earl of Warwick and Lord Cobham to learn his fate: these Lords had not gone far before they espied a body of troops hurrying along in seeming disorder; in the midst of these was the French King, in the greatest hazard of his life, for the English and Gascoigners having by force torn him from Sir Denis de Morbeque, they were quarrelling among each other about their title to the royal Prisoner; and some even threatened to put him to death rather than give up their pretensions. To avoid the danger which threatened him, this unfortunate Monarch was obliged even to use intreaties: "Contend not thus warmly about me, " brave Knights," said he, "but conduct me and my Son civilly to the Prince my

" Cousin, and concern not yourselves who  
 " it was that took me, for I am a King.  
 " and able to enrich you all." These  
 words somewhat pacified them; and the two  
 Lords arriving at the same time, preserved  
 him from any further indignities: they  
 immediately commanded, in the Prince's  
 name, that no one should approach the  
 King's person; and then paying him the  
 homage due to a Sovereign, they conducted  
 him and his Son, with great respect, to the  
 Prince's tent;

It is now that the brightest part of this  
 young hero's character opens to us. His  
 martial achievements have probably been  
 equalled, but that humanity, moderation,  
 and courtesy which discovered itself in him  
 at so early an age (for he had not yet  
 reached his twenty-seventh year) renders  
 his character unrivalled, and his name  
 immortal.

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The first impulses of his humane heart led him to enquire after the vanquished King; the next after his own friends and companions. Whilst the two Lords were executing his commands, he asked those about him if they could give him any intelligence relative to those Knights who were absent, and had distinguished themselves in the battle, particularly after the Lord Audeley; being told he was grievously wounded, and in a litter hard by, the Prince expressed great concern for him, and sent two Knights to see if he was able to be brought to his tent; declaring at the same time, that if his wounds would not permit this, he would readily waive all ceremony and wait on him. Lord Audeley, sensibly affected by the Prince's care and condescension, ordered his servants to bear him in his litter to the place where his Highness was: when he was brought into his presence, the Prince tenderly embraced him, and endeavoured to cheer him by the kindest expressions. "I greatly honour you, Sir

"James," he cried, "for the valour you  
 have shewn this day; you have atchieved  
 the grace and renown from us all; I  
 therefore retain you as my Knight, and  
 to enable you to pursue the tract in which  
 you so much excel, I assign you a yearly  
 revenue of five hundred marks out of my  
 heritage in England." Lord Audeley  
 thanked the Prince, as well as his feeble con-  
 dition would allow, for this mark of his  
 favour, and retired; but to shew that no mo-  
 tives but those of honour and love for his  
 prince and his country had influenced his  
 noble soul, he immediately transferred the  
 donation to his four Squires. The Prince  
 hearing of this generous proceeding, and  
 pleased with the spirit of his Lordship, as  
 it corresponded with his own elevated sen-  
 timents, thanked him for so proper an ap-  
 plication of his gift, and settled six hun-  
 dred marks a year more upon him.

Lord Audeley was scarcely departed from  
 the Prince's tent than the Earl of Warwick  
 returned,

returned, and presented the French King to him. Young Edward received the captive Monarch with the same reverence and respect as if he had approached him in his fullest splendor, and conquered him again with arms more penetrating than the sword or spear, by his moderation and princely courtesy; he immediately ordered some refreshment to be set before his Majesty, and instead of assuming that superiority which he had acquired by conquest, served him himself with great humility; administering at the same time every consolation to him that his situation would admit of.

At night he caused a magnificent supper to be provided in his pavilion for the French King, and those of his prisoners whose quality entitled them to this precedence: he obliged the King to sit in his own chair of state, and his son Philip by him; the Counts de Ponthieu, d'Eu, and de Tankerville, being all of the blood royal, had seats at the same table; many Lords and

and Knights of inferior degree sat at other tables; and during supper the Prince of Wales would suffer no person to serve the King but himself, notwithstanding his Majesty's intreaties to the contrary. He endeavoured to raise the spirits of his royal Prisoner, by treating him in the most humble and respectful manner; and when he still perceived by the King's countenance that he continued dejected, with a benevolence and generosity not to be paralleled he thus addressed him: "There is no cause, "Sir, that so brave and valiant a Monarch "should be thus troubled and pensive, al- "though at this time your arms have not "been favoured by the great Disposer of "events; success does not always attend "desert; but your valour is acknowledged, "your dignity still preserved, and your "Majesty held sacred: your great Prede- "nitors have atchieved many glorious en- "terprizes both by sea and land; the tro- "phies of every part of Europe have pro- "claimed the victories of France; and in  
 "the

" the East, the faith and grandeur of the  
 " Christian name have been propagated and  
 " defended by your Predecessors against the  
 " most puissant Captains of the Infidels :  
 " perhaps among so many triumphs a few  
 " battles have proved unsuccessful ; the  
 " well-known instability of Fortune, which  
 " sometimes baffles the force of multitudes,  
 " has so ordered it ; but it lies in your own  
 " power to support yourself under your  
 " present adverse fate, and to keep your  
 " mind still unconquered : nor shall this  
 " day detract any thing from your glory ;  
 " as the realm of France has produced and  
 " nourished many of my Progenitors, it  
 " shall ever find me grateful, and mindful  
 " of my origin ; and your Majesty shall  
 " always meet in me, if you will permit  
 " me to glory in the title, an humble and  
 " respectful Kinsman. There are many  
 " reasons which render a friendly union  
 " between your Majesty and the King my  
 " Father desirable : I trust they will prove  
 " efficacious ; for, as I well know the most  
 " secret

" secret thoughts and affections of his mind,  
 " I am satisfied you will easily come to an  
 " accommodation with him : for my own  
 " part, may he refuse to acknowledge me  
 " for his Son, when I cease to hold you in  
 " the same degree of honour and respect I  
 " owe to his sacred person \*."

Thus did this godlike Prince endeavour to  
 dispel the melancholy which clouded the  
 brow of his illustrious Prisoner ; and by re-  
 calling to his remembrance the warlike deeds  
 of his Ancestors, strive to take off his at-  
 tention from the present adverse state to  
 which he was reduced. With an exemplary

\* The substance of this consolatory address is given in  
 Du Chesne, p. 678, Paul Amy, p. 287, and Holling-  
 head's Eng. Chron. p. 960, which leaves no room to  
 doubt of its authenticity. The Prince's youth, his  
 triumphant situation, and the uncommon delicacy of  
 sentiment it contains, may otherwise lead us to attribute  
 it to that propensity of many of the ancient Historians  
 to insert in their works romantic speeches and actions,  
 which have no real foundation, and are only credible  
 as they correspond with the manners of the age.

greatness

greatness of mind he forbore to make any mention of his own glorious achievements, though it is natural to suppose he was not at that time cooled from the fury of the battle, and must be elated with the greatest success that ever crowned the arms of any General. The ambitious views of his Father on the crown of France were lost in the present wish to give comfort to the dejected possessor of it : the partial distinctions of friend and foe were extirpated both from his discourse and behaviour, by that truly christian benevolence which no Prince ever possessed in a more eminent degree, and without which his character might have been indiscriminately mingled with the herd of Conquerors, born only for the destruction of mankind.

This courteous demeanour had a visible effect on the grateful mind of the French Monarch, who has been no less celebrated for his many virtues than for his misfortunes : though vanquished and a prisoner, he

he did not forget that he was a King ; he thanked the Prince for the attention he paid to his distresses, and assured him that he thought it no diminution of his honour to be conquered by so brave and noble an enemy \*. His Majesty spoke but seldom during

\* This courteous behaviour of the Prince of Wales towards his royal prisoner, being represented to the Pope by the Cardinal of Perigort, his Holiness wrote two letters to the Prince ; from one of which the following extract is taken, and confirms the general account of his moderation and clemency : “ Innocent the Bishop, servant of the servants of God, to Edward Prince of Wales, eldest Son of our most dear Son in Christ, the illustrious King of England, greeting, and apostolic benediction. Our reverend Brother Talarand, Bishop of Alby, Nuncio of the apostolic See, wrote unto us by his letters, that you confirming and enhancing the nobility which you derive from your stock, by your generosity of soul, and the exercise of your virtues, have entertained him with such honours and such favours as became a Son to exhibit to his Father in Christ ; and that (which is greater than all these) preparing your mind equally for all events, and not being puffed up with any prosperity of successes, but always more humble in the sight of the Lord your God, attributing all unto him from whom you have received all, you do graciously allow to our dear Son in Christ, John the

during the repast, and then only short and obliging sentences to the Prince, who continued to wait on him till it was finished. But the French Nobles could not contain their admiration at such uncommon humility in so young a Conqueror: overcome by this elevation of mind, more than by their late defeat, they burst into tears of joy, and dwelt untired on his praises. All the English and Gascon Knights, imitating the generous example set them by their Prince, treated their Captives with great humanity, and dismissed them on moderate ransoms.

"the illustrious King of France (whom the event of war  
 "hath brought into your prison) that honour which belongs  
 "to so great a Prince: upon which account, returning  
 "unto your Highness our deserved praises, and hoping,  
 "undoubtedly, that the omnipotent God, who hath  
 "respect unto the lowly, but knoweth the proud afar off,  
 "will bestow on you more abundantly and freely the  
 "grace of his benediction, &c." Dat. Aven. V. Non.  
 Octob. anno Pontif. IV. Odor Rainal. Epist. Secret.

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This ever-memorable victory, termed the battle of Poictiers, was obtained on the nineteenth day of September, 1356, beginning about nine in the morning, and ending a little after noon. There were slain in it, according to both the French and the English accounts, the chief and most valiant of the Nobility of France, among whom were two Dukes, nineteen Counts, and six thousand men at arms, exclusive of the meaner sort, who were reckoned at eight thousand more. The slaughter was much less here than at Cressy, the English forces being not a third so numerous; and the Prince of Wales was unwilling to continue the pursuit too long, for fear of hazarding the victory, as his foes were so abundant. When the prisoners were collected together they amounted to twice the number of the English army; they therefore released many of them immediately, after fixing a small ransom upon them, and receiving no other security than their promise to remit it before Christmas to their

Captors at Bourdeaux : but remaining masters of the field of battle, they were all enriched by the spoil they found upon it ; for the French, confident of success, had decorated their horses and themselves with their best furniture and apparel, that they might celebrate their victory with the greater pomp : the prisoners also, though their ransoms were fixed at a low rate, brought in considerable sums. Every one was allowed to apply to his own use the money he received for the captives he had taken ; the French Monarch, his Son, and those whose redemption exceeded ten thousand crowns only excepted, as such belonged by the law of arms to the King.

Early the next morning after the battle, the Prince ordered his army to be drawn up, and on the field where its protection had been so conspicuous, caused thanks to be publicly rendered to Heaven for their signal deliverance. Among his many virtues and amiable qualities, an unaffected piety held

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not a secondary place : instead of vaunting himself on his great prowess, and priding himself in his victories, he was not ashamed to attribute his success to the interposition of a superior Power, and publicly to offer up his grateful acknowledgments : this humility diffused itself through every action, and gained him the love and esteem of those who were witnesses to it, with the encomiums of succeeding ages.

Having allowed his army a proper time for their refreshment, he prepared to continue his march, intent on the security of his royal prize, and the spoil his troops had acquired. Thus did Edward the Black Prince (now doubly dyed black by the terror of his arms, as Froissart expresses it) after another successful expedition, march leisurely back, and arrive crowned with honour at his chief city of Bourdeaux : the extravagant joy and triumph, the sumptuous feasts, and splendid pageants, with which this victorious Prince and his gallant troops were

were received into that city, are scarcely to be imagined or described. From hence the Prince wrote letters to the King his Father, giving him a full but modest account of his success, and promising the next spring to attend his royal Prisoner to England.

Whilst he remained at Bourdeaux he was employed in deciding various differences about the French prisoners : those he designed to carry with him to England, which the Gascoigners laid claim to, he paid them the ransom for ; among these were Philip the French King's Son, the Count de Pontthieu, and several other Noblemen : he also heard before him the pretensions of Sir Dennis de Morbeque to the person of the King of France ; and notwithstanding Sir Dennis shewed the gauntlet the King had given him, a Squire of Gascoigne, named Bernard de Troutes, averred that he had more reason to claim the honour of taking the royal Prisoner, and thereupon challenged him ; but the Prince commanded

them both, on pain of his displeasure, not to proceed, being determined to leave the decision of so intricate an affair to the King his Father : however, on the French King's declaring in favour of Sir Dennis, the generous Prince secretly gave him two thousand nobles to enable him to support the dignity he had acquired, till he should arrive at the English court ; and the next year, when King Edward had determined the cause in his favour, the Prince gave him five thousand crowns of gold more as a reward for that service ; for though the Honour was decreed to him, yet the King's ransom being above the ten thousand crowns stipulated by the military laws, the Knight was not entitled to it.

So many French Noblemen being slain or taken prisoners at the late battle, there remained but few able to manage the affairs of that kingdom. The Dauphin, now about eighteen years of age, naturally assumed the royal power during his Father's captivity ;

captivity ; - but though endowed with excellent abilities, he possessed neither the experience or authority necessary to defend a nation, assailed at once by foreign powers, and shaken by internal factions. In order to obtain supplies he assembled the states of the kingdom ; but instead of supporting his administration, they laid hold of the present opportunity to demand limitations of the Prince's power, and a renewal of those rights they supposed to have been infringed by his Predecessors : a scene of confusion consequently ensued, and France experienced for some months all the horrors attendant on anarchy.

The provinces of Languedoc and Champagne alone seemed ready to contribute towards the King's redemption and the exigences of the state; assembled by the Earl of Armagnac, the King's Lieutenant in those parts, they agreed to pay their quota in money, and to raise five thousand men; at the same time they issued out an ordonnance,

forbidding the men to wear any precious furs or rich stuffs ; and ordering that all the Ladies should lay aside the gorgeous attire of their heads, and wear neither pearls, gold, nor silver about their clothes, or upon their girdles, so long as their King should remain a prisoner : and further to testify their unhappiness on account of the public calamity, they laid aside all banquets, entertainments, dances, and every other diversion during his captivity. But these laudable regulations were of no effect, as most of the other provinces entered into the views of the metropolis, whose Provost, supported by several thousand artificers, flew three of the Dauphin's Counsellors in his presence, and were ready to shake off all regal authority.

During this confusion in the Dauphin's affairs, King Edward seemed to have missed a favourable opportunity for pushing his conquests ; but the state of the English finances would not at present permit him to make

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any regular or continued efforts. It has been also esteemed bad policy in the Prince of Wales to keep the French King and the other prisoners so long at Bourdeaux, whereby more than a year was spent in pleasure and inactivity ; but a rumour having been spread, that the three estates by which the kingdom of France was then governed, had views of rescuing their King on his passage to England, it was necessary he should raise a fleet sufficient to convey him with safety. This, and the dangers of a winter's voyage, retarded the Prince till the twenty-fourth of April following, near seven months after the battle of Poictiers; when he set sail for England : on the fifth of May he landed at Sandwich, from whence, after a short stay to refresh himself and his companions from the fatigues of the voyage, he proceeded on the twenty-fourth to London.

Sir Henry Picard, then Lord Mayor, was commanded by the King to prepare for

their reception in the most honourable manner ; and in Southwark they were met by a thousand of the Citizens on horseback. The King of France, clothed in royal apparel, was mounted on a large white courser in token of Sovereignty, whilst his generous Conqueror, with his usual modesty and unparallelled greatness of soul, rode by his side on a little black horse, industriously, avoiding every appearance of triumph. They took their way over London Bridge, and rode directly to Westminster, and in the streets through which they passed the Citizens displayed their plate, tapestry, and valuable ornaments ; but they more particularly exposed their warlike furniture, as suitable to the occasion, and expressive of their triumphant joy. The concourse of people to behold this uncommon sight was so great, that the procession continued from five o'clock in the morning till noon, about which time the Prince got to Westminster-hall, where he presented to the King his Father, then sitting in great state on a royal throne,

throne, the person of King John his prisoner. The English Monarch arose, and advancing to meet him, received him with the same courtesy as if he had been a neighbouring Potentate voluntarily come to pay him a friendly visit. He then embraced his Son, and publicly thanked him for the services he had done the kingdom; in which all the people joined with the loudest acclamations. The King concluded the day with a magnificent entertainment, and ordered apartments for the principal of his captives in his own palace, till the Savoy could be prepared for their reception.

Never was joy more sincere and unbounded than that which diffused itself through the whole nation on this glorious occasion; and the rejoicings were continued

The Savoy at that time was a noble structure, belonging to Henry Duke of Lancaster; but the first founder being Peter Earl of Savoy, it retains his name to this day.

for

for several weeks with the utmost splendor. Those troops who had been present at the battle of Poictiers were welcomed, treated, and highly cared for wherever they came, and in all respects preferred to others of equal rank and condition: on the contrary, all the Lords, Knights, and Squires of France, who had fled from the battle, were so hated, reviled, and pointed at, that they forbore to appear at any public place of resort: so certainly is honour and the public approbation the reward of virtuous and gallant actions; and so assuredly will infamy and reproach pursue the coward or the villain. The ambitious Tyrant or his despotic Ministers may affect to despise the censures of the people, and term them the clamours of an ill-judging mob; the disgraced General may impute his retreat to accident, to mistake, or to prudence, and vaunt of his magnanimity whilst the enemy are at a distance; but the tyranny of the one, and the cowardice of the other, will appear through the thin disguise, and excite the

the murmurs of the multitude, whose determinations are seldom erroneous. The admiration and respect which the noble and generous deeds of King Edward and his godlike Son attracted, not only from their own subjects, but from the whole world, should incite succeeding Princes to an imitation of their virtues, as they bid fairest to procure them esteem at home, and honour from their neighbouring Potentates. The acclamations of a few may be purchased, obedience might be enforced by rigid laws and subservient mercenaries; but how unlike the cheerful huzzas and willing service of a happy people!

The Prince of Wales shewed such a generous concern for the French Monarch, that he promised him, both in his tent the night of the late battle, and frequently afterwards, that he would endeavour by his entreaties and influence to prevail on his Father to lay aside his enmity, and listen to reasonable terms of accommodation: he accordingly,

accordingly, as a preparatory step, procured a truce to be made till the twenty-fourth of June 1359, in expectation that a peace would be concluded in the interim.

The Pope also again strove to mediate between these Princes by his Legates, but they were so notoriously partial to the French, that King Edward would by no means comply with the terms they offered; to enforce their proposals, and to make a peace the more necessary to the English King, they demanded, in the name of his Holiness, the sum of one thousand marks, granted by his predecessor King John to the court of Rome when he resigned his crown; and that sum having been withheld for some years, they insisted likewise on payment of the arrears. But depending on the duty of his Clergy, the loyalty of his Barons, and his own valour, he told them without hesitation, "That as he acknowledged no sovereignty but that of Heaven, he would never pay tribute or live

" live in subjection to any mortal what-  
ever." This resolute reply put an end to  
the negotiation, and a cessation of arms, as  
before agreed, was all that could be accom-  
plished.

Some months before the expiration of the  
truce, King Edward with his Son the Prince  
of Wales, and the King of France with  
Lord James of Bourbon, held a friendly  
meeting at Westminster, when a treaty of  
peace was agreed to by the two Kings on  
the following terms:

First, That Aquitaine should remain en-  
tirely to King Edward and his heirs for  
ever, together with Gascoigne, Poictou,  
Touraine, Sanctone, Perigort, Quercy,  
Limosin, Angoulesmois, Calais, Guisnes,  
Boulognois, and the county of Ponthieu,  
without any homage or tribute being re-  
quired of him; and holding it by the same  
absolute sovereignty as he held his kingdom  
of England.

Secondly,

Secondly, That King John should pay as a ransom for himself three millions of crowns of gold, and one million for the Lords of France.

In consideration of these conditions King Edward would give up and wholly remit all his right in and to the duchies of Normandy, Anjou, and Maine; and renounce his pretensions to the crown of France, never after taking upon him the title of King of that country.

This agreement was signed and sealed by both Kings on the twenty-fourth of March 1359, and a copy thereof sent to France for the acquiescence of the Dauphin, by the Lord James of Bourbon, and the Lord Arnulf d'Endreghan: but the Dauphin and the States of France rejected a treaty which they esteemed dishonourable to that nation. This refusal being brought to the French King by the two Lords, he turned to King Edward who was present, and thus expressed his

his dissatisfaction: “The fatal obstinacy of  
 “my infatuated people is providing another  
 “trophy for your victorious arms; you  
 “must again shew them the sad effects of  
 “war, before they will understand the ad-  
 “vantages of peace: but thrice unhappy I,  
 “who cannot regain my liberty till I see  
 “my subjects once more vanquished; and  
 “can only impel them to their duty by the  
 “arms of my Conqueror.”

From this time King Edward began to make preparations for war; and in the interim, to keep his Knights in employ, as well as to indulge their turn for chivalry \*,

The following instance, recorded by Père Daniel, will shew the prevalence of chivalry and gallantry at that time, and countenance this romantic exploit, though it now appears only worthy of ridicule. A solemn duel of thirty Knights on each side was fought between Bemborough an Englishman, and Beaumanoir a Breton, of the party of Charles de Blois: the Knights of two nations being come into the field, before the contest began Beaumanoir called out, That it should be seen that day who had the fairest Mistresses. After a bloody combat the Bretons prevailed, and gained for their prize the liberty to boast of their Mistresses beauty.

which

which the people of that age were enthusiastically fond of, he caused a solemn just to be proclaimed in London, to hold three successive days for the amusement of the citizens: in the proclamation made on this occasion it was given out, that the Lord Mayor, the two Sheriffs, and the Aldermen, as challengers, agreed to maintain the field against all opposers: but on the day appointed the King himself, according to a private agreement, came into the city, attended by his four Sons, Edward, Lionel, John, and Edmund, and by nineteen of his principal Barons, where, bearing the city arms on their shields and surcoats, they personated the corporation, and entered the lists in their stead: they supported their challenge with great honour for three days, in the presence of the Kings of France and Scotland, the whole court, and an infinite number of spectators: a few only of the Citizens had been let into the secret; but when it was publicly known that the King and his Sons had done them so great an honour,

honour, and fought so gallantly under their cognizance, they were greatly rejoiced, and found, if possible, their love for their Sovereign and his amiable family increased.

The truce was no sooner expired, and the necessary preparations made, than King Edward embarked his army, which consisted of one hundred thousand men, on board one thousand one hundred and twenty sail of ships at Sandwich, and landed the same evening at Calais: on the fourth of November early in the morning they left that town, and marched with great regularity into France, the King observing a stricter discipline on this occasion than on any former one. The carriages which had been brought from England consisted of six thousand carts and waggons; each drawn by four horses; they were laden with provisions for the army, besides many things rarely seen in a camp, but useful in an enemy's country; such as hand-mills to grind their corn, moveable ovens and forges:

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these were committed to the care of the Prince of Wales, who had with him his three Brothers, two thousand spears, and four thousand archers on horseback, besides infantry.

As this army was the greatest that ever passed the sea from England in any prior or succeeding reign, in memory of the principal leaders I shall recite their names : Edward the Third, King of England, France, and Lord of Ireland ; with his four Sons, viz. Edward of Woodstock, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwal, &c. ; Lionel of Antwerp, Earl of Ulster, afterwards created Duke of Clarence ; John of Gaunt, Earl of Richmond, afterwards Duke of Lancaster, and King of Castile and Leon ; and Edmund of Langley, Earl of Cambridge, afterwards Duke of York. The King's fifth Son, Thomas of Woodstock, was left in England, and though not six years of age, was constituted by his Father Lieutenant and Lord Warden of the kingdom during

ing his absence in France, several of the wisest Prelates and Counsellors being appointed as the real Governors. The rest of the Leaders were Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, the King's Cousin-german; Roger Lord Mortimer, Earl of March, and Constable of England; Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and Robert Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, Marshals of the army; Ralph Stafford, Earl of Stafford; William Montague, Earl of Salisbury and King of Man; Humphry Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex; William Bohun his brother, Earl of Northampton; and John Vere, Earl of Oxford; the Lord Henry Piercy and his eldest Son Sir Henry, who was afterwards created Earl of Northumberland; with the Lords Ralph Neville, Edward Spencer, John Chandos, Walter Manny, Reginald Cobham, John Grey, John Mowbray, Roger de la Warre, Thomas Felton, John Willoughby, James Audeley, Ralph Basset, John Carleton, Bartholomew Burghersh, John Fitzwalter,

Edmund Pierpoint, and John Botetourt, (the Predecessors of several noble families now extant) besides many Knights of great repute : exclusive of these noble persons, a great number of Lords and Gentlemen, strangers, drawn by the high renown and splendid success of King Edward and his Son, were emulous to fight under their banners.

The Dauphin and the three estates of the kingdom of France, seeing so formidable an enemy approach, were the more easily reconciled and united for their country's defence : but the young Prince, warned by the ill-success of his Father, resolved to act only on the defensive ; he accordingly prepared to elude a blow which it was impossible for him to resist, by putting all the considerable towns in a posture of defence ; having supplied them with strong garrisons, he then fixed his own station at Paris, with a view of allowing the invaders to waste their fury on the open country.

The English army having ravaged Picardy advanced into Champaigne, Edward having a strong desire to be crowned King of France at Rheims, the usual place in which that ceremony is performed; he therefore laid siege to that city, and vigorously carried on his attacks for seven weeks, though without success, it being defended by John de Craon their Archbishop with great bravery.

During the siege several strong detachments were sent out to forage, whereby many encounters happened: the most remarkable achievement performed by these detached parties was by one under the command of the Duke of Lancaster, accompanied by the Earl of Richmond the King's third Son, the Earl of March, the Lord John of Chandos, the Lord James Audeley, the Lord Burghersh, and the Lord of Mucedean a Gascon Knight. Having ravaged Champaigne till they came to Cerney en Dormois, a strong castle, they made a yi-

gorous assault on it ; and the Lord of Mucidan being slain, all the Lords swore they would not stir till they had taken the place : the Gascoigners, enraged at the loss of their Commander, plunged into the ditches, and mounting the walls with their targets over their heads forced the castle, putting in the first transports of their fury all the garrison to the sword, except Sir John Caples the Governor, and a few Knights.

King Edward foreseeing the plan of defence laid down by the Dauphin, had (as before observed) brought with him as many necessaries as possible for the subsistence of his army ; he had also with him for his amusement thirty falconers with hawks, and sixty couple of hounds ; with these the chief of the Nobility hawked and hunted at their pleasure, thus passing away a tedious winter.

Still finding an obstinate resistance from the inhabitants of Rheims, and that an at-

tempt to take it by storm, which his valour sometimes suggested, would occasion the loss of many troops, having also greater designs in agitation, the King decamped and marched into Burgundy. On his approach, Philip the young Duke sent his Chancellor and some other Noblemen to Edward, offering one hundred thousand nobles for the preservation of his country from further ravages: this offer was accepted, and the English army withdrew from his territories. The King then bent his march towards the Nivernois, which saved itself by a like composition; but the other provinces not purchasing the same favour, he marched towards Paris, laying waste the territories through which he proceeded.

On the last day of March he encamped before that city, taking up his quarters at Bourg-la-Reine within two small leagues of it. During the festival of Easter several treaties were set on foot to prevent a further effusion of blood, but without success: this

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induced King Edward to draw his whole army nearer to Paris, when he sent the Duke of Lancaster with his Heralds to challenge the regent, then in the city with a very considerable force, to battle, assuring him at the same time, that if the French were victorious he would never after claim or assume any right to the crown of France. Whilst the Duke was on this errand, the King \* knighted no less than four hundred young

\* On these occasions two species of Knights were generally created, Knights-Bachelors, or Knights-Bannerets ; the former is the first degree of military honour ; and in time of war or of haste, the initiation consisted only of a gentle touch on the shoulder with the flat side of a sword ; the latter dignity is supposed by Camden to have been instituted by King Edward himself, as a recompence of martial prowess : it was reckoned an intermediate rank between a Baron and a Knight-Bachelor, and might be termed Vexillarius Minor, the lesser banner-bearer, as before this order was created, the right of carrying a square banner belonged only to the Barons. There is also a difference between Knights-Bannerets and Knights-Bachelors, in the occasions and circumstances of their creations : the Banneret being only created at a time when the King's standard is erected, and he bears a banner of his own in the field, whereas the Knight-Bachelor might  
be

young Gentlemen, to encourage them to a  
valiant behaviour should a battle ensue.

But the Duke of Lancaster soon returned with an answer, that the Dauphin declined to accept the defiance; when the King granted Lord Walter Manny leave, on his earnest request, to go at the head of the new-made Knights and a considerable body of troops to skirmish near the barriers, and to burn what they could of the suburbs, hoping by this means to provoke the French to issue out: the assault was vigorous and lasted from morning till noon, the French

be dubbed at any time. A Knight could not be made a Banneret till he was able to raise and maintain a certain number of men; but a Knight-Bachelor not being able to do this, marched under the banner of some of the Barons. The ceremony used in making a Banneret is thus: He is brought into the field between two senior Knights, with trumpets sounding before them, and Herald carrying a banner of his arms called a Penon; in this manner being brought before the King, the tip of his banner is cut off, that of an oblong it might become a square, like that of a Baron: his Majesty then having wished him success, he returns to his tent conducted as before.

defending

defending their ports with great resolution ; but the Regent having given peremptory orders that no man, on forfeiture of his life, should go beyond the barriers, this design of Sir Walter proved ineffectual.

The King now seeing that no provocations could bring the Dauphin to a battle, and that it was impossible to reduce the city with so numerous an army in it, he raised his camp and marched into Bretagné : his intention was to lay waste the country as he proceeded, and, after having refreshed his troops in that fruitful province, to return to Paris before the harvest was got in ; as this plan would prevent the Dauphin from procuring any fresh supplies of corn, he doubted not of being then able to reduce that city by famine.

But whilst he was on his march Embassadors followed him with fresh overtures of peace. The Regent, his two Brothers, and their Uncle the Duke of Orleans, having

ing in council maturely considered the miserable situation of France, occasioned by the ravages of the King of England, they began seriously to wish for an accommodation: to this purpose they added the Bishop of Terovenne, a prelate of great consequence and judgment, to the negotiators that had been employed during the Easter week, and ordered them to follow King Edward: overtaking him near Gaillardon, they desired him to permit a treaty to be held once more for this salutary end; which he readily granted, appointing his Son the Prince of Wales, with the Duke of Lancaster, to hear their proposals; but at the same time slackened neither his march or his operations. The négociation was carried on in this manner for several days, but the English Monarch's demands appeared so unreasonable to the French Commissioners, that they were obliged to send an account of their proceedings frequently to the Regent, and to wait a return of his directions,

Very

Very little progress being made in the treaty, as King Edward would not renounce his pretensions to the crown of France, Henry, called for his heroic and princely virtues the Good Duke of Lancaster, endeavoured to soften the rigour of these conditions, and to terminate the war on more equal and reasonable ones: the King notwithstanding continued inexorable, as the justice of his claims to the French throne had been early rooted in his breast, and had been long the favourite wish of his heart. However, whilst the Duke of Lancaster was one day reiterating his reasons and intreaties on their march towards Chartres, an accidental storm removed his obduracy, and effected what the Duke's most forcible arguments may not have brought about. The sky in an instant became clouded, and there fell such torrents of rain and hail, accompanied by such tremendous peals of thunder and flashes of lightning, that the whole fabrick of nature appeared to be dissolving: even the boldest Knights, those

those who had often braved death in battle, could not behold this uncommon agitation of the elements undismayed. At the same time it became so excessive cold, that six thousand horses and near one thousand men perished on the spot ; among others, that brave young Nobleman the Lord Guy Beauchamp, eldest Son of the Earl of Warwick, was so wounded, that he died a few days after at Vendosme. King Edward looked on this as a loud declaration of the Divine displeasure at his severity ; alighting therefore immediately from his horse he kneeled on the ground, and made a solemn vow to Heaven, that he would now sincerely and absolutely incline his mind to peace with France on reasonable conditions : thus disposed he encamped at a village near Chartres, called Bretigny, where the French Commissioners attended him next day with ample instructions, and he was content to accept of their offers of peace \*.

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\* The preamble runs thus : Edward, eldest Son of the noble King of England, Lord of Ireland and of Aquitain, Duke

This famous treaty was negotiated by Edward Prince of Wales, Charles the Dauphin Regent of France, and their agents, in the name of both the Kings, these two Princes, and all the subjects of either realm. It was therein stipulated, That King John should be restored to his liberty, on paying for his ransom \* three millions of crowns in gold, about one million five hundred thousand pounds of the present money, which was to be discharged

Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester, to all who shall see these present letters, greeting. We give you to understand, that of all the debates and discords whatsoever moved and commenced between our most redoubted Lord and Father the King of England on the one part, and our Cousin the King and his eldest Son Regent of the realm of France on the other part, for the benefit of peace it is accorded on the 8th of May in the year of Grace 1360, at Bretigny near Chartres, in manner and form following.

\* An immense sum had the whole been paid, but one half of it remained unpaid at the time a fresh war broke out between the two kingdoms; when his son Charles, then King, chose rather to employ the money in combating the English, than in enabling them to carry on the war.

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at different payments. That King Edward should for ever renounce all claim to the crown of France, and to the provinces of Normandy, Maine, Touraine, and Anjou, possessed by his Ancestors ; in exchange for which he should receive, besides what he already held in Guienne and Gascoigné, the provinces of Poictou, Sainctonge, Agenois, Perigort, the Limosin, Tarbé, Cahoursin, Bigorre, Gaure, l'Angoulesmois, and other districts in that quarter, together with Calais, Guisnes, Montreuil, and the county of Ponthieu, on the other side of France. That the full sovereignty of these provinces, as well as that of Guienne, should be vested in the crown of England ; and, That France should renounce all title to feudal jurisdiction or homage for them. That the King of Navarre should be restored to all his honours and possessions. That the English should renounce their confederacy with the Flemish, the French their connections with the Scots. That the disputes concerning the succession of Brittany, between the families

milies of Blois and Mountfort, should be decided by arbitrators appointed by the two Kings. And, That forty hostages should be sent to England as a security for the performance of all these conditions.

This treaty being first signed by the Prince of Wales and the Dauphin, was afterwards ratified by oath in the following manner, as described by Walsingham :  
 " At Paris in the time of low mass, when  
 " they had thrice sang, *O Lamb of God,*  
*which takest away the sins of the world,*  
*grant us thy peace,* Charles the Dauphin,  
 " Regent of France, went up to the altar,  
 " and laying his right hand on the patten  
 " wherein lay the Holy Eucharist, and his  
 " left on the Gospels, he took his oath in  
 " these words : We Charles do swear upon  
 " the Holy Body and the Gospels of our  
 " Lord, firmly what in us lies to keep this  
 " peace and concord thus formed between  
 " the two Kings ; and by no means to go  
 " against the same. So help us, &c." The  
 like

Like oath was taken by the Prince of Wales, in the church of Louviers in Normandy.

The peace being thus confirmed, King Edward marched by way of Abbeville to Calais, where he gave orders for the embarkation of his troops for England : but the Prince of Wales with his division having marched into Normandy, that the army being thus divided may be better accommodated, the King hastened from Calais to Harfleur, where he took shipping with his Son, and landed at Rye in Suffex on the eighteenth of May.

The King of France being now at liberty to return to his kingdom, the Prince of Wales conducted him to Calais on the eighth of July ; but the money agreed for the first payment of his ransom being delayed to the twenty-fifth of October following, the Prince with his usual courtesy attended his royal Friend till that time, and

P endeavoured

endeavoured by varying his diversions to make his abode there agreeable.

On King Edward's arrival at Calais in the beginning of October, both Kings again ratified and confirmed by oath the treaty, the French Monarch being no longer a prisoner; the hostages were also delivered up, and four hundred thousand crowns of gold paid in part of the ransom: King Edward then entertained his royal guest in a magnificent manner, the Prince of Wales, his Brothers, and the chief Nobility serving uncovered. The next morning King John with his retinue left Calais, the King of England accompanying him a mile on his way, where the two Monarchs parted with many professions of mutual friendship and amity. The good disposition of the French King made him fully sensible of the generous treatment he had met with in England, and obliterated from his memory the unfortunate incidents which had given occasion for it.

The Prince of Wales attended him to Boulogne, where they parted with great reluctance; endeared to each other by a reciprocation of noble and virtuous sentiments and repeated acts of courtesy, a generous friendship, such as is only known to exalted minds, had taken root in their bosoms never to be eradicated: though they had met as enemies, yet the fervour of their last embrace spoke more forcibly than words could do, the affectionate emotions of their truly royal hearts.

The Prince on his return to Calais embarked with his Father and the French hostages on the last day of October, and landed at Dover the next morning. When the King arrived in London, with his usual humanity he gave command to all his Officers to bear themselves kind and favourable towards the Lords of France, and to defend them from all affronts and injuries whatever.

We are now to behold, the character of the heroic Prince of Wales in another point of view: softened by peace he became a captive to love; but even in this situation he gave proofs of the dignity of his sentiments and rectitude of his heart. In the early part of his life he had attended his Father to Antwerp, where he was so admired by the whole court of the Duke of Brabant for his exact shape, noble air, and graceful accomplishments, that a match was proposed by the Duke between the Prince and the Lady Margaret his Daughter. The proposal was readily accepted by King Edward, on the Duke's promising to give for her portion fifty thousand pounds sterling. But the royal Children being within the third degree of consanguinity, and the Pope refusing to grant a dispensation, the marriage was not consummated. Since which the Prince had never turned his thoughts towards wedlock; honour had been his only mistress, and military achievements his whole delight. The time however

however at length arrived, when he was to add another proof to the innumerable instances already recorded by Historians, that the boldest hearts are not impenetrable to the shafts of Love.

An accidental arrow pierced his breast; for soliciting Joan, Countess of Kent, one day in behalf of a friend, he was so struck with her noble reply, and the force of her charms, that he yielded up his heart to her. This Lady was daughter and heiress of Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, second Son of King Edward First, and for her admirable beauty was generally styled the Fair Maid of Kent. Though thus royally descended, she was first married to Sir Thomas Holland, who in her right was Earl of Kent, and by whom she had three sons and a daughter: Sir Thomas dying, she still retained so much of her beauty, that the Prince could not behold her without feeling emotions to which he had hitherto been a stranger.

She was in the thirty-third year of her age, and the Prince in the thirty-first of his, when he made his addresses to her in favour of a person he much respected, whose name is not handed down to us. He repeated his solicitations with great disinterestedness, but always found the Lady reluctant: at length, when the Prince would no longer be denied, she told him with some warmth, "That when she was a ward she had been disposed of by others; but that now, being at years of discretion, and mistress of her own actions, she would not degrade herself by marrying beneath her rank." She added, "That as she could not but remember she was of the blood royal of England, she was resolved never to marry again, unless it was to a person princely and virtuous as himself." A blush which overspread her lovely face as she concluded, conveyed the whole of her meaning to young Edward, who from that moment began to form wishes not very favourable to his friend. The Prince, who

was

was a passionate admirer of every gallant spirit, was so pleased with the dignity of her manner and sentiments, and so charmed with the partiality she seemed to express for himself, that he now solicited her hand on his own account : as he saw the Countess so determined against the person proposed to her, he thought it no breach of friendship to accept of that love he could not gain for another, and which had been so delicately offered him.

King Edward was greatly pleased both at his determination and his choice ; a more suitable match could not have been proposed to him, as he wanted not to strengthen his throne by foreign alliances : the Prince the great grand-child of Edward the First of glorious memory, the Countess the grand-child of the same Monarch : he the glory of his sex for military performances, and all princely virtues ; and she the flower of hers, for the delicacy of her beauty, the sprightliness of her wit, and the goodness of her heart.

heart. To noble and ingenuous minds affection is displeasing; they therefore deferred no longer to indulge their mutual wishes, than was necessary to procure a dispensation from the Pope on account of their consanguinity; this being obtained, they were married with great splendor and solemnity at the Castle of Windsor, on the tenth of October 1361, and during their whole lives lived an example to the English court, of that nuptial harmony and felicity which flows from a well-placed affection,

King Edward being now possessed of such considerable territories in France, the sovereignty of which had been confirmed to him by the treaty of Bretigny, he had thoughts of erecting Aquitain and the other provinces into a kingdom, and to annex them to his titles; but taking into consideration the great services of his Son Edward, he resigned them to him, creating him Prince of Aquitain. The Prince having received the proper charters, which contained

tained many tender expressions from the King, and done homage for his dominions, he made preparations to pass the seas to take possession of them: the remainder of the year was employed in preparing a retinue equal to his dignity, which, by the acquisition of so rich a principality, required the pomp and state of royalty.

After Christmas the King and Queen, with their whole family, went to visit the Prince and Princess at Berkhemstead, a manor belonging to the Prince in Hertfordshire, where they continued several Days \*,

\* Sir John Froissart, who was present at the Prince's court during this association of the royal family, gives an account of the hospitality with which they were received, and at the same time relates a prophecy which was then the subject of conversation: "That neither the Prince of Wales nor any of King Edward's Sons should ever come to the crown, but that the realm of England should, after a while, devolve to the House of Lancaster." This happened to prove true; but perhaps the ambitious spirit of John of Gaunt, afterwards Duke of Lancaster, whose Son by indirect methods mounted the throne, began to shew itself at this early period, and rendered such an event probable.

during

during which time the King held many consultations with his Son on public affairs, as he alway paid great respect to the Prince's judgment, not only in the concerns of war, but also those of civil government: the remainder of the time was spent in splendid entertainments, and in such diversions as could give pleasure to their royal guefts; the Prince and Princess by their hospitality, affable behaviour, and tender affection for each other, increasing that esteem and veneration in which they were before held by the English court.

In the beginning of the February following the Prince went on board his fleet, of which the Earl of Warwick was Admiral, and arrived in four days at Rochelle, at which place he, and his Princess who accompanied him, were received with joyful acclamations: on the fifth day after his arrival he set out with a princely train for Poictiers, where the Nobility of that province met him with great respect, and cheerfully

cheerfully paid him homage. Thus, near the spot on which he vanquished the powers of France, he reaped the first fruits of his conquest. From Poictiers he went to Bourdeaux, where he kept his court with all the splendor of a Monarch: thither the Nobles of Gascoigné came to render him fealty; he received them graciously, and behaved towards them in all points with so much honour, graced by such a noble, generous, and affable deportment, that they rejoiced in the exchange of Sovereigns, and promised themselves much prosperity under his government.

Among those who came to pay him homage were the Earls of Foix and Armagnac, Lords of great power, and nearly allied by blood, but there subsisted a great animosity between them: this had broke out into a war, which the French King durst not undertake to compose, for fear of disobliging the King of England, whose vassals they now were; but the Prince of

Wales

Wales took the opportunity of their meeting at his court to make peace between them, his obliging carriage and convincing arguments bringing them to reason, though before they were not inclinable to admit of an accommodation.

But it was not in the power of the Prince to reconcile the minds of all his new subjects to this change of government. Some of the towns transferred to the English Monarch by the late treaty of peace expressed extreme reluctance against submitting to the dominion of the English: the King of France therefore took a resolution of coming over himself to England, in order to adjust these differences with the greater readiness: his Council endeavoured to dissuade him from this rash design, and probably advised him to make this a pretext for breaking a treaty so disadvantageous to his nation; but the King, among many other virtues, possessed a nice sense of honour, and a scrupulous punctuality in fulfilling

filling every obligation he had entered into : he consequently told them, " That though good faith was banished from the rest of the earth, she ought notwithstanding to retain her habitation in the breasts of Princes." A declaration which will ever do him honour, and, exclusive of his valour and humanity, will make his name respected \*.

On his arrival in England he was received by King Edward with the greatest cordiality, and had the Savoy palace again allotted for his residence ; but he lived not long enough either to enjoy the hospitable reception of Edward, or to finish the busi-

\* Some Historians, unwilling to allow the French King the merit of such a noble conduct, impute his readiness to visit England not to his punctuality but to Love : they assert, that being enamoured with a Lady of that kingdom during his abode there, he made these disputes a pretext for paying her a visit. But this appears improbable from the age of that Prince, who was now in his fifty-sixth year, when it is natural to suppose the violence of passion must be moderated by Reason and Prudence.

ness which brought him over; for he soon sickened and died. This Prince lived an instance that bravery, goodness of heart, and unspotted honour, cannot always secure the possessor from the frowns of Fortune, though merited only by slight imprudences. His too hasty and ill-judged attack of the English army at Poictiers, notwithstanding the number of his forces warranted the most desperate attempt, tumbled him from a splendid throne to captivity, and wrested from him a large portion of his dominions. But though both the reign of King John and that of his Father proved unfortunate to their kingdom, the French crown acquired, during their time, the provinces of Dauphiny and Burgundy, valuable acquisitions.

Charles the Dauphin succeeded his Father to the throne; a Prince educated in the school of Adversity, and well qualified by his prudence and experience to repair the losses which the nation had sustained  
from

from the errors of his Predecessors. Before Charles could think of opposing the power of England, or endeavour to recover the provinces his Father had dismembered, it was necessary to repair the many disorders to which his own kingdom was exposed. Instead of commanding his armies himself, as his Ancestors had always done, he chose Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, a Knight of Brittany, to fight his battles ; reserving to himself the more important duties of a King—Policy, Foresight, and Judgment. This Gentleman was one of the most accomplished characters of the age ; Charles had discernment enough to distinguish his talents, and to employ them to advantage.

He first directed his arms against the King of Navarre, who had long secretly assisted the enemies of France, and given that kingdom continual disturbance ; Sir Bertrand attacked him with success, and obliged him to accept of peace on disadvantageous terms.

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The wars in Brittany still continuing, notwithstanding the mediation of France and England, Sir Bertrand was sent to the assistance of Charles de Blois, to whose interest the French had always been attached; but the Knight found himself unable to cope with the valiant Lord John Chandos, who fought on the side of the Count de Mountford: Du Guesclin was taken prisoner, and Charles de Blois being slain, the young Count got possession of that duchy. The French King, by his policy, guarded against any hostile consequences that might have arisen from this event; for submitting to the decision of Fortune, he acknowledged the title of de Mountford, and received as Sovereign the proffered homage for his dominions.

Another embarrassment now called for all the exertion of King Charles's policy. On the conclusion of the peace of Bretigny, the many military adventurers who had followed the fortunes of King Edward, being dispersed

dispersed into the several provinces of France, and possessed of many fortresses, they refused to lay down their arms, or relinquish a course of life to which they were accustomed, and by which alone they could gain a subsistence. These, by the accession of numbers who were reduced to misery and despair from the devastations of war, amounted in the whole to near forty thousand, and under the name of Companions committed depredations on the peaceable inhabitants of the kingdom. Some English and Gascon Gentlemen were not ashamed to take command of these ruffians ; they fought several regular battles with the troops of France, in many of which they were victorious, and in one of them a Prince of the blood lost his life. This evil was every day increasing, nor could a sentence of excommunication, which was issued by the Pope against them, put a stop to their outrages.

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As Charles the French King was unable to suppress them by force, he politely contrived to find them employ against some foreign power: an opportunity soon offered; for Pedro, King of Castile, termed with great propriety the Cruel, having filled his own family and his kingdom with bloodshed, his natural Brother, Henry Count de Transtamara, assisted by those subjects who were disgusted at the King's cruelty, took up arms against him: the Count however being unsuccessful in the attempt, fled into France, where he found not only an asylum, but assistance; for King Pedro having, at the instigation of his mistress Maria de Padrilla, put to death his Wife who was Sister to the Queen of France, the whole French nation were greatly exasperated against him, and ready to revenge her murder. Charles took advantage of this disposition of his people to assist the Count, and at the same time to employ the Companions who had given him so much trouble; he accordingly sent amongst

amongst them Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, who was by this time ransomed from the English. The high character this General possessed induced them to rely on his promises, and to enlist under his standard, though they knew not the destination of their arms; the only condition they required before their engagement was, that they should not be led against the Prince of Wales in Guienne. Sir Bertrand agreeing to this restriction, soon raised a sufficient number of forces, and marched into Spain, where the universal detestation King Pedro was held in by his subjects, made his expulsion easy to hardy and experienced soldiers, led on by so able a General. Don Henry was accordingly seated on his Brother's throne, and the exiled King obliged to seek a refuge in Guienne.

Whilst this was transacting the Prince of Wales employed himself in the regulation of his principality: he constituted the Lord John Chandos Constable of all Aquitain, and

the Lord Guischar d'Angle his Marshal ; the other great offices he distributed without partiality to the English and Gascon Knights according to their merit, choosing those whose fidelity he was assured of, and who were most celebrated for their virtues. Perhaps there never lived a Prince of greater integrity or stricter honour ; the possession of similar qualities was consequently a sure recommendation to his favour : and so great was his penetration, that he was seldom mistaken in his judgment of persons,

He now became as famous for the propriety of his government in peace, as for his heroic achievements in war. Peter of Lusignan, King of Cyprus and Jerusalem, having been soliciting several of the European Potentates to assist him in a crusade for the recovery of Jerusalem, was so struck with the brilliancy of the Prince of Wales's character, that he declared he should esteem every thing he had seen or done of little moment, till he had been personally witness

witness to the excellencies of so renowned a person ; he therefore took a journey to Angoulesme, where the Prince then kept his court, and arrived at the time he held a grand tournament in honour of the birth of his son Edward, 1364. The King of Cyprus beheld with admiration this celebrated Hero, and was soon convinced that Fame had not been too lavish in his praises : after being nobly entertained and greatly caressed by the Prince, he procured leave on his departure for the Earl of Warwick, the Lord Roos, and upwards of three hundred valiant Knights of England and Gascoigné, to assist him in the holy wars.

It was in the fourth year of the Prince's residence in France that Don Pedro, King of Castile, implored his protection. Whilst that King remained at Corunna he sent a letter to the Prince of Wales, declaring his misfortunes, his danger, and his poverty ; and intreating, in the humblest manner, that he would grant him succour.

Q3

Having

Having summoned the Lords who composed his Council, young Edward shewed them the Spanish King's letter, and desired their advice how to act: " Shall we, " after the manner of the world," said this generous Prince, " neglect a man in adversity? or shall we, as charity and benevolence require, assist him to recover his throne? He claims our aid as a lawful heir and acknowledged Sovereign, driven from it by an illegitimate Pretender; shall we not therefore, notwithstanding his crimes, endeavour to regain for him his crown, striving at the same time to soften the rigour of his disposition, which will ensure him the future obedience of his subjects? It is true we are here enjoying the pleasures of peace, but are they not attended with obscurity and disgrace? If we undertake this enterprise and succeed, as I trust we shall, immortal honour, the warrior's chiefest good, will be our reward." The Lords, inspired by the same generous principles, gave

gave their opinion in favour of the banished King; and it was agreed to invite him to Bourdeaux, that they might hear more at leisure the particulars of his request.

There is no action of this excellent Prince's life that seems to deserve censure excepting this. To engage in defence of a King held in general detestation for his numberless cruelties, has drawn upon him the censure of many: some imputing it to a restless disposition have said, that, inflamed by the love of arms, he considered not the character of the person for whom he undertook a war, so he engaged in battles and bloodshed; others, supposing it to proceed from presumption generated by his former victories, consider it rather as the effect of vanity than of generosity; whilst the French ascribing it to envy, boast that the Prince, repining at the recent success of their great Commander Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, was determined to snatch the laurels from his brow. The latter is very

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improbable; for after two such unparalleled victories as those of Cressy and Poictiers, it cannot be supposed that the Prince of Wales could set his name in competition with a Knight, who had not yet arrived to any degree of glory. It was not till after this period that Sir Bertrand's achievements acquired him so much renown; and even then the Prince of Wales, whose honour the greatest Monarchs on earth might envy, could not surely condescend to be jealous of a person who had been conquered and taken prisoner by one of his Generals. The natural greatness of the Prince's soul forbids this conclusion. Inured from his childhood to war, and disliking the inactive state he had long remained in, he might perhaps engage too hastily in the cause of an undeserving King: to prevent the acquisition of so powerful a confederate to France as the new King of Castile, who was allied by honour and gratitude to that kingdom, may have been another inducement: the latter motive will in a great measure

measure excuse the precipitate step, if we are unwilling to allow him the merit of generously intending to succour a distressed Prince. He found however in the end too much reason to repent his engaging in favour of a Potentate, who was not only cruel and tyrannical, but perfidious and ungrateful.

No sooner were his resolutions taken to listen to the petitions of Don Pedro, than he fitted out twelve men of war to bring him from Corunna, of which he appointed the Lord Thomas Felton Admiral : but whilst this fleet was detained at Bayonne by contrary winds, the fugitive King arrived there, attended only by his three Daughters, and a slender retinue. Being obliged by his successful adversary to leave his kingdom, he threw himself without hesitation into the hands of a Prince, on whose known honour he was satisfied he could rely. According to his usual courtesy, the Prince met the Castilian King on the road to Bourdeaux,

Bourdeaux, shewing him the same respect as if he had been in possession of his kingdom. Don Pedro was not wanting in promises to confirm the Prince of Wales in his favour: he agreed, on his re-establishment, to give him the province of Biscay, and to make his young Son Edward King of Galicia; he likewise voluntarily covenanted to distribute all his riches, which being unable to bring with him he had secreted in Castile, among the troops that should be employed to assist him.

The Prince, before he absolutely engaged in this enterprize, thought it his duty to consult his royal Father, without whose approbation he had never undertaken any step of importance, on the propriety of it. To this end he dispatched the Lord Roger de la Warre and three other Knights to England, postponing his resolutions till their return. King Edward approved of the undertaking, and as a token of his concurrence sent his third Son the Duke of Lancaster,

Lancaster, who was desirous of seeing his Brother and serving under him in this expedition, back with the Knights.

The Prince of Wales now summoning the Lords of Acquitain, imparted to them his designs, and his Father's orders for their assistance : they prepared to obey the commands of their Sovereign, but as it was a war to be carried on in a distant country, for the benefit of a foreign Potentate, and not a service due to their own Lord, they desired to know to whom they were to apply for the usual subsidies. The Prince, turning to the Spanish King who was present, told him, that as the undertaking was on his account, it lay with him to satisfy the Lords on this head ; he represented to him at the same time the justice of their enquiry, alledging, that though he was willing to assist him with forces insured to hardships, and accustomed to conquer, yet it was not within the compass of his revenues to pay and provide for such an army,

nor

nor could they expect it from him as they were not raised for his own service. The Castilian readily offered to distribute among them all the money he had brought with him, and solemnly repeated his promises of an ample recompence on the recovery of his kingdom and his treasure. The Prince of Wales approved of his intentions, and that none of his troops may be dissatisfied with the scantiness of their present allowance, advanced the King a very considerable sum, to be repaid at the same time.

The first step the Prince took to distress the enemies of his new ally was by recalling all the English and Gascon Companions who had enlisted themselves under the banner of Sir Bertand du Guesclin, and remained yet in Spain. Sir Hugh Caverley, Sir John Devereux, Sir Mathew Gournay, and other Knights who commanded these freebooters, immediately obeyed the summons, and so much reverence did the whole corps bear to the name  
of

of Edward, that they cheerfully followed their leaders, though they were then engaged in a very advantageous employ. As yet Don Henry was unacquainted with the Prince's intentions; he therefore granted them passports, and suffered them to depart. When he was informed of the active part the Prince proposed taking in the cause of his adversary, he treated it with contempt; and had it not been for the advice of the French General Sir Bertrand, who was well acquainted with the activity and irresistible power of the Prince of Wales, he would have taken few precautions for his defence.

Before the Prince entered on this expedition it was necessary to gain the consent of the King of Navarre for a passage through his dominions, which lay between Aquitain and Castile: some apprehensions arose of his acquiescence; for though during the wars between France and England, from a turbulent and fickle disposition, he had always

ways favoured the latter, yet, as he had lately entered into a strict alliance with Don Henry, the Prince was apprehensive of some obstructions from him. But Don Pedro, who during his adversity was very lavish of his promises, agreeing to restore several towns which he had taken from the King of Navarre, and also to pay him immediately fifty-six thousand florins of gold, he consented to permit the army to pass through his territories. The repayment of this sum, which the Prince of Wales advanced to satisfy the King of Navarre, was the only contract which the perfidious Castilian ever performed \*, and that probably he would have evaded, had he not given a bond for it dated at Libourne near Bour-

\* This was the only consideration the Prince ever received for the money he advanced, and his friendly exertions in favour of this King, exclusive of some moveables which he left in his hands: among them was a rich table decked with gold and precious stones, that some years after fell into the possession of Thomas Arundel, Bishop of Ely, who left it by will to his successors.

deaux,

deaux, 23d September 1366, and left his three Daughters as a security.

Don Pedro at the same time, by a deed dated also at Libourne, as a perpetual testimony of his gratitude, and as a lasting monument of his acknowledgments for such singular grace and goodness extended to him, as well as for the greatest increase of honour he could possibly fancy for the Prince of Acquitain and Wales, and for the Crown of England (thus it is expressed) granted unto King Edward, to the Prince his Son, and to their heirs and succeffors, Kings and Princes of England for ever, that whenever it should please any of them to be in person in the wars with any King of Castile against an enemy of the Christian faith, that the said King and his three eldest Sons should have the chief command in the van-guard above all other Princes in Christendom: and although at such time neither of them should be there in person, yet there should always be provided by the Kings

Kings of Castile, or their Successors, a standard of the arms of England, to be borne in the same place for the honour of that kingdom. He also grants in the same contract some other privileges to the English, which prove the greatness of Don Pedro's obligations.

The Prince of Wales now employed all his thoughts to perform with honour the adventure he was engaged in : he was at this time in the flower of his life, being in the thirty-sixth year of his age, of full strength of body, in perfect health, and of undaunted courage well tempered with experience and discretion. How sad a reverse did this unfortunate expedition occasion !

The Companions who had obeyed his summons amounted to twelve thousand, and were maintained by him during the winter at an amazing expence ; besides these he took into his pay all the valiant men that offered of whatever country. To enable him to do this, he caused the greatest

greatest part of his plate to be melted down; and borrowed large sums from his friends in England. Satisfied with the propriety of his own conduct, he endeavoured to inspire his Lords and Knights with favourable sentiments of the cause he had undertaken: with great humanity he buried the vices of the Man in the sufferings of the King; and persuaded, according to the despotic opinion of all the Monarchs of those rude times, that no subjects had a right to depose their Sovereign, however tyrannical his conduct, much less that it became a bastard Brother to usurp a throne, he was conscious that his exertions in defence of the banished King were founded on honour and equity.

Whilst the Prince was busied at Bourdeaux in preparations for the Spanish war, the Princess his Consort was delivered of another Son, to whom he gave the name of Richard; and he was called, according to the custom of that age, Richard of Bourdeaux. This Prince, after the death

of his Father, and elder Brother Edward, who died at the age of seven years, succeeded his Grandfather Edward the Third, and wore the crown of England twenty-two years \*.

On the Sunday following, being the tenth of January, the Prince of Wales left the city of Bourdeaux with a royal equipage, having sent the greatest part of his forces before him, and arrived in the evening at Dax, where he met his Brother the Duke of Lancaster, who had landed with his troops in Bretagné, and marched through the provinces of Poictou and Sainctonge.

\* Sir John Froissart relates, that on the day of this Prince's birth, as he sat at dinner in Bourdeaux, Sir Richard Ponchardon, a valiant Knight of England, skilled in the astrological science, came to him within two hours after the Prince was born, and said, " Froissart, write down and remember, that this morning my Lady the Princess is brought to bed of a fair Son, on this twelfth day, which is the day of the three Kings; and though he is but, the second Son of a King's Son, yet he shall be King."

The

The Princess of Wales beheld with a secret dread this first separation from her beloved Lord: the weak state she happened at that time to be in added weight to the blow; but the consideration that an increase of glory to her Edward, whose renown was dearer to her than life, would be the reward of this absence, and the pleasing expectation of seeing him return crowned with fresh laurels, banished every complaint. Her sighs however could not be suppressed; amidst all her pomp anxious apprehensions would frequently intrude, and for a moment permit tenderness to triumph over reason. The feelings of the Prince were no less pungent; but engaged in the cause of Humanity, and intent on glorious deeds, he suffered not even the excitations of love to retard the great purposes of his soul. Their adieu was uncommonly tender; that of Hector and Andromache, however elegantly described, could not proclaim with greater energy the susceptible heart or the exalted mind.

After the junction of his troops with those of his Brother, the Prince continued his march towards Castile; but though the King of Navarre had solemnly engaged to grant the English forces a free passage through his kingdom, yet on their approach they found great obstructions; it was even rumoured that he had declared for the new King of Castile. The inconsistency of his character rendering this report probable, Sir Thomas Calverley, with some of the Companions who formed the Prince's van, took the town of Puente de Reyna and the city of Miranda, which belonged to him. This induced the King of Navarre to send a Nobleman to the Prince to make his excuses, which he did with so much plausibility, that the Prince smothered his resentment, but insisted on his Master's meeting him to perfect the accommodation. The King was obliged to submit to this degradation, and met the Prince of Wales in person on the frontiers of his dominions, where, after several conferences, the last treaty was explained

plained and renewed. This being done, he returned to his residence in the city of Pampelona, ordering all the avenues of his country to be left open, and commanding his subjects to furnish the English with provisions on payment of a reasonable price for them.

The Prince's army then continued its march in three divisions; the first commanded by the Duke of Lancaster and Lord John Chandos; the second by the Prince himself and Don Pedro; and the third by James, King of Majorca; in this order they passed the Pyrenean mountains, not without incredible difficulties from the ruggedness of the roads, and the inclemency of the season.

Don Henry, King of Castile, urged by Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, had taken every precaution to frustrate the attempt of his enemies; by the assistance of Pedro, King of Arragon, and some other neighbouring

powers, he was enabled to raise an army of one hundred thousand men, with which he now advanced to meet the Prince of Wales, whose forces did not amount to one-third of that number.

When the armies approached each other, the Prince detached a party of one hundred and fifty men at arms, and three hundred select archers, all well mounted, under the command of Lord Thomas Felton, to discover the posture of his adversary : Sir Thomas having passed the river Ebro with great secrecy, encamped at Naverret, from whence they frequently rode up to the camp of the Spaniards, with an intent to descry their numbers and situation. One evening they ventured almost to a village which Don Henry had made his head quarters : this boldness brought on a skirmish ; but notwithstanding Sir Thomas was obliged to retreat, he carried off several prisoners with him. The next morning he sent a Knight to inform the Prince, then at

Salvaterra,

Salvatierra, of his success, and the strength of the enemy ; at the same time he informed him that Don Henry was advancing to meet him, and seemed desirous to come to an engagement. The Prince hearing these tidings, said aloud to those about him, “ By my faith this bastard Henry is a valiant Knight, his readiness to meet us proves him so ; since he is thus disposed, we will not long oppose his wishes.”

He then immediately issued orders for marching to Victoria, an advantageous post which he thought it necessary to secure : he was no sooner arrived than he drew up his army in order of battle, and waited with composure the attack. To raise an emulation among the younger part of his forces, he first knighted in the field Don Pedro, and afterwards conferred the same honour on several courageous and hopeful young Gentlemen. But Don Henry being well supplied with provisions, and finding that a scarcity prevailed among his enemies,

he could not be drawn from his camp. The Prince seeing there was no possibility of procuring subsistence for his army in his present situation, marched through the province of Alava till he came to Vienne on the confines of Navarre ; where having refreshed his men for two days, he passed the Ebro and encamped near Najara. Don Henry, on this movement of the Prince, dislodging from St. Miguel encamped near him, and a battle now became unavoidable.

The next day, being Saturday the third of April 1367, the Prince was ready armed and in the field as soon as the morning dawned. As the armies approached each other, with his visor up, and his hands clasped in a supplicating attitude, he addressed himself to Heaven in a short ejaculation, begging with great humility and fervour the assistance of that Being, without whose aid neither valour nor strength can ensure success ; after which, laying his right hand on the shoulder of Don Pedro

Pedro who rode by his side, he bid him be of good cheer, for that day he trusted would place him again on the throne of Castile: he then gave the word for the onset, which was, "Adyance, banners, in the name of 'God and St. George.'

The division which the Prince led attacked with great fury the van of the Spaniards, commanded by the Duke of Sancelloni and Don Sancho, the King's Brothers; but not being able to withstand the impetuous shock, they soon fled in great disorder, and opened a way for the English to reach the main body, which consisted of sixty thousand men, at the head of whom was Don Henry.

The fight now grew desperate, and was maintained with great bravery by both parties till noon, when victory declared for the Prince. Don Henry rallied his men three times, and led them back to the charge with undaunted resolution, endeavouring

vouring each time to arouse their courage by these pathetic remonstrances : “ My “ Lords, I am your King ; made so by “ your free choice ; and you have sworn to “ support me on the throne you have given “ me ; for Heaven’s sake, therefore, be “ mindful of your promises, and acquit “ yourselves loyally unto me.” Another time would he say, “ Where is the cou-“ rage of those noble Spaniards who, under “ my Father King Alphonso, have so often “ conquered the Moors ? Do not now dis-“ grace your former glory.” By these and similar expressions he inspired many of his Knights with unusual courage, and they sacrificed their lives to his service. But the superior fortune of the Prince of Wales prevailed : pity that it had not been exerted in a better cause, and against a less-deserving foe.

The English hero behaved in this battle as he had done in those of Cressy and Poictiers, with great intrepidity and con-  
summate

summate prudence: he was always in the hottest place of action, and wherever the greatest stress lay thither he constantly hastened, carrying with him assurance to his friends, and terror to his enemies.

When the fight was ended, he caused his standard to be erected on a hill to direct his men on their return from the chace: thither, among the other Chiefs, came Don Pedro, who alighted from his horse the moment he saw the Prince, and to shew his gratitude would have prostrated himself before him; but the Prince ran hastily to prevent it, and catching him by the hand would not permit him to kneel; then, with that noble humility and unaffected piety which had ever graced his life, he cried, "Kneel not to me, Sir, but pay your thanks to God, and give him all the praise, for through him alone, and not by me, have you obtained this victory."

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding this great example, the morning after the battle, Don Pedro, by nature savage and blood-thirsty, desired the Prince to deliver to him the Duke of Sancelloni, his illegitimate Brother; and such other prisoners as were natives of Spain, that he might put them to death. The Prince, shocked a proposal so unworthy a truly brave mind, instead of complying with his request, advised him rather to grant a general pardon to all his subjects, and by that means endeavour to conciliate their minds, than by a continuance of the same inhuman conduct that had already occasioned their revolt, render his throne still insecure. Thus was every dictate of this excellent Prince's heart conformable to the strictest rules of genuine heroism. By this timely interposition he saved the lives of many Spanish Noblemen; from whence a greater satisfaction must arise to a mind like his, than from the victory he had just obtained. The Castilian King, from the want of power to effect his sanguinary purposes

purposes in opposition to the Prince of Wales, rather than from conviction of the impropriety of such a step, laid aside his intentions, and pardoned all the prisoners on renewing their oath of allegiance to him.

Nothing now remained to consummate the Prince of Wales's glory : by his exalted prowess he had atchieved three such enterprizes as any one singly was sufficient to render his name immortal. First, at the battle of Cressy, where the whole power of France was broken, two Kings slain, and a third put to flight, and this at an age before other Princes have learned the rudiments of war, or are able to wield a weapon ; secondly, at the battle of Poictiers, ten years after, when with an inferior force he again overthrew the French, and took their King with all the flower of his Nobility prisoners ; thirdly, at Najara, as just recited, where at one blow he decided the fate of a kingdom ; for the Spaniards terrified at this defeat, voluntarily returned to their

their duty, and again accepted Don Pedro as their lawful Sovereign. But this last exploit, though nothing inferior in honour to the former, was attended with the most fatal consequences ; for during his stay in Spain in expectation of Don Pedro's fulfilling his promises, through the heat of the climate he fell sick of an incurable disease, which put an end to his life, after lingering ten years under it.

When the news of the Prince's success arrived in England, rejoicings equal to those made on his former victories spread throughout the land ; the city of London in particular celebrated it with great solemnity, and his royal Parents prided themselves in this accumulation of fame to their favourite Son. But a different scene presented itself in the kingdom of France ; unfeigned sorrow sat on every brow for the loss of so many of their bravest countrymen, who having followed the fortunes of Sir Bertrand du Guesclin were slain in the battle :  
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the capture also of Sir Bertrand, their redoubted champion, proved a great corrosive to the minds of those who had gloried in his might, and set his warlike actions in competition with those of his Conqueror.

Don Pedro being thus re-established on his throne, the Prince of Wales put him in mind of the conditions on which he had engaged in his cause, entreating him to fulfil them that he might return to Guienne. The Spanish King excused himself for the present by pleading his inability, but promised to take a progress through his kingdom for the purpose of raising contributions, with which he would repay every obligation to his auxiliaries. The Prince was obliged to be satisfied with this evasion, and waited at Valladolid upwards of six weeks with a tolerable degree of patience for Don Pedro's promised return: at the end of that time he sent three Knights to Seville, where he heard the Spanish King then was, to know the reason why he had

not

not kept his appointment. They received no greater satisfaction ; for the King now imputing his delay to the frequent plunders of the Companions, which put it out of the power of his subjects to assist him as he expected, desired the Prince to withdraw the whole of his troops from his dominions, only leaving behind him proper persons to receive the stipulated sums when he should be able to pay them. This at once convinced the Prince that he had nothing to expect from him ; and he found he had too much reason to repent the associating himself with a man like Don Pedro, abandoned to all sense of virtue and honour : he saw that these refusals proceeded rather from a want of principle than of ability, and was tempted sometimes to make use of force to recover the sums which were thus unjustly withheld from him ; but finding his army daily diminishing by sickness, and his own \* health

\* Some Authors impute the Prince's illness to charms and incantations ; others to the unwholesome air of Spain,  
or

health greatly impaired by the climate, he was obliged to be content with these assurances, and to return into Guienne.

At Bourdeaux he was received in triumph ; he there met the Princess and his Son Edward, now about three years of age : the Princess's joy was greatly damped by the visible alteration in her much-loved Edward's health ; nor could the increase of his glory compensate for the baneful consequences with which it was attended : whilst she welcomed his return with inexpressible rapture, the pallid hue which had supplanted the glow of health that was wont to inspire cheerfulness, and to excite her love, in an instant threw a gloom over her beauteous countenance, and checked

or to some lingering poison : the latter supposition is not improbable, and it may have been administered to him by order of the man on whom he had conferred undeserved favours, but who, instigated by ingratitude and his natural cruelty, took this method to acquit himself of them.

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every rising transport. From that hour her tender apprehensions were awakened, and she anticipated that fatal event which slowly crept on, and at length overwhelmed not only his amiable Consort, but the whole English nation with anguish and despair.

Soon after his arrival the Prince disbanded his army, and declaring his obligations to the Chiefs for their cheerful and efficacious assistances, promised, as soon as he could raise the necessary supplies, to pay them for their services, even though Don Pedro should not fulfil his engagements : " For my own part," continued this generous Prince, " Honour shall be my only reward." The troops, satisfied of the punctuality of their beloved General who had never forfeited his word to them, retired without murmuring ; and he assigned quarters to the Companions till they should receive the stipulated pay.

According

According to the established custom, he soon allowed such of the French and Spanish Knights as could procure sufficient ransom to return to their homes : but Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, the French champion, who had seated Don Henry on the throne of Castile, remained a prisoner with the Prince some time, till an accidental circumstance procured him that liberty, which neither the offer of a considerable ransom nor the solicitations of his friends were able to obtain. The Prince, who treated all his prisoners with great affability, conversing one day with this General said, " How does your spirit brook this confinement, Sir Bertand ? " " Very well, Sir," returned the Knight ; " how can I be disatisfied, since I am in the hands of the most generous Prince living, and made prisoner by the most renowned Knight in the world ? " " Lord John Chandos is indeed so," answered the Prince ; " but though it is no dishonour to be conquered by a gallant man, what comfort have

“ you in being detained, when most of  
“ your countrymen are ransomed ? ” “ Oh,  
“ Sir,” replied Sir Bertrand, “ I have this  
“ comfort ; it is reported both in France  
“ and Spain, that your Highness stands so  
“ much in fear of me that you dare not  
“ let me go, which must needs redound to  
“ the honour of so mean a Knight as I  
“ am.” The Prince knew well to what  
end these subtle expressions tended ; he  
also remembered that his whole Council had  
been unanimous in advising him to reject  
every offer of ransom for so formidable an  
enemy, till Don Pedro had paid the money  
so long promised, fearing he might again  
embroil the affairs of Spain, and put that  
King out of a capacity of paying : he was  
however of too great a spirit to bear this  
insinuation, though prudence urged the ne-  
cessity of his being detained. To convince  
him therefore that he was superior to his  
bravado, and to let him see that his resto-  
ration to liberty depended on himself, he  
told him he would immediately consent to  
his

his ransom if he chose it; at the same time to combat him with his own weapons, he resolved to ask such a sum as he could not easily raise: he consequently made him this reply; "Then, Sir, it seems you "imagine we detain you here through dread "of your prowess and chivalry; but think "not so, Sir Knight, for I swear by St. "George, on payment of one hundred "thousand franks you shall immediately "be free." "Agreed, Sir," returned the General, "and I thank you for the honour "of rating me so high." The Prince would not recede from what he had said, though his Council would have persuaded him to break his promise; and Sir Bertrand, by the assistance of the French King, the Duke of Anjou, and Don Henry, having raised in less than a month the sum agreed, which amounted to ten thousand pounds sterling, was released from his imprisonment.

Don Henry no longer dreading the Prince of Wales's potent arm, collected his scattered

tered troops and removed into the kingdom of Arragon, where he renewed his alliance with that King, who promised to aid him in the recovery of the throne he had been driven from. The unparalleled cruelties exercised by Don Pedro over his helpless subjects, whom he now regarded as vanquished rebels, revived all the animosity of the Castilians against him. Don Henry took advantage of this renewed dissatisfaction, and assisted by the King of Arragon, and Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, who immediately on his release had raised a considerable body of French and marched to his aid, he sought out his opponent. A battle ensued, in which Don Pedro was defeated; and retiring with difficulty from the field, threw himself with a few troops into the castle of Montrel, whither his victorious Brother followed him and laid siege to the castle.

Don Pedro finding, that from a scarcity of provisions he should not be able to hold out long,

long, resolved to attempt an escape: accordingly about the hour of midnight, accompanied only by twelve persons, he issued out in great silence, and was favoured by the darkness of the night. He however had not proceeded far before Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, who had foreseen this attempt, and was therefore the more watchful, alarmed the guard on hearing the trampling of horses; rushing immediately into the road from whence the sound proceeded, he laid hold of the bridle of the first horse he met, which happened to be Don Pedro's, telling him that he was a dead man if he offered to move on. The Spanish King then discovering himself, endeavoured to corrupt the fidelity of the French Knight, by a promise of two hundred thousand crowns of gold if he would permit him to escape; but Sir Bertrand, faithful to the cause he had espoused, secured the King with all his train, and carried them to his tent.

He had not been long there before Don Henry, attended by the Duke of Rochebreton and some other Noblemen, came in : as Don Henry entered he cried aloud, “ Where is that Son of a Whore the Jew, “ who calls himself King of Castile ? ” Don Pedro could not contain himself at this insult, but boldly replied, “ ‘Tis thou that “ art the Son of a Whore, and I the legi-“ timate Son of King Alphonso : ” at the same time seizing Don Henry, he threw him upon a bench, and with his dagger would certainly have slain him, had not Lord Rochebreton laid hold of Don Pedro’s leg and turned him on his back, thus ex-pressing himself, “ I neither make King, “ nor marr King.” Don Henry recover-ing himself by this timely assistance, drew out a long knife and plunged it into his Brother’s heart, so that he instantly died. Thus fell Don Pedro, and King Henry in consequence became fully established on the throne of Castile. The descendants of the former however, after some time, re-ascended  
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it; for Henry, Grandson of Don Henry, taking to wife the Princess Catherine, sole daughter and heiress of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by his second wife Constance, eldest Daughter of King Pedro, the families became united, and he reigned as the true and lawful King of Castile and Leon.

The death of Don Pedro put an end to every expectation of those sums of money being paid, which he was indebted to the forces who had regained him his crown, The Prince of Wales, however, more faithful to his promise, and tenacious of his honour, fully recompensed all those who had served him in that expedition; but in order to do this, he was obliged to load his subjects with taxes: this gave them such disgust, that many of them threw themselves into the arms of their ancient Sovereign the King of France; and unable from his ill health to oppose them in person, he had the vexation to see a great part of his late-acquired dominions

minions torn from him. Agreeable to the advice of his Council, he endeavoured to raise the necessary supplies by a fouage, or a tax on all chimnies throughout his principality : the sum imposed on each chimney was a livre, which it was supposed would produce twelve hundred thousand livres per annum ; but this was frustrated by the opposition many of the Lords made to it : those who lived near his court, and were immediately exposed to his resentment, submitted to it, though with extreme reluctance ; whilst others absolutely refused compliance. All the Prince's amiable qualities were not sufficient to mitigate or assuage the animosity which was revived on this account in the breast of the inhabitants of Aquitain against the English. The Counts of Armagnac, of Perigort, and of Comignes, the Lord d'Albert, and some other Nobles withdrew themselves to Paris, carrying their complaints to Charles the French King, as their Lord Paramount, against these oppressions.

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The King of France had now, by his prudence, brought the affairs of his kingdom into excellent order ; but he thought it yet too soon to break with the English : he therefore for some time refused to grant their petitions, or to interfere in their disputes. He was however at length prevailed on by them to re-assume the sovereignty over those dominions, which had been given up by the treaty of Bretigny ; and they even persuaded him to summon the Prince of Wales to make his personal appearance before him at Paris, there to justify his conduct towards his vassals. Many circumstances conspired to bring the French Monarch to this determination : the mortal injuries his kingdom had received from the English, the pride of their triumphs, and the severe terms imposed by the treaty of peace, seemed to call for every prudent method of retaliation : he at the same time considered the declining years of King Edward, the languishing state of the Prince of Wales's health, the affection which the inhabitants

of these provinces bore to their former Masters, the animosity his subjects in general expressed against their invaders, and their ardent desire of revenge ; all these considerations contributed to procure his exertion in favour of the Gascon Lords, as a prelude to more important movements.

Before the French King agreed to summon the Prince of Wales, he thought it good policy to endeavour by some fallacious means or other to get over his brother the Duke of Berry, and the rest of the Noblemen who were still detained as hostages for the remainder of his late Father's ransom. Accordingly the Duke having received a private hint from Charles of his intentions, obtained leave of the English Monarch to return home to recreate himself amongst his friends and relations for one year. King Edward, from the unwarlike character of Charles, could not be convinced, even by the repeated informations of his Son the Prince of Wales, that he had any designs of commencing

commencing hostilities ; he therefore freely granted the Duke of Berry permission to return to France on his parole for the time requested. This, as pre-concerted, he paid no regard to ; and the Lord Guy of Luxembourg, Count de St. Pol also, an inveterate enemy to the English nation, found means by much subtilty to get away without leave.

The Prince of Wales was greatly displeased at the opposition he met with in raising the new tax ; and to shew his disdain of those Noblemen who had retired in disgust, he proceeded to exact it with a high hand on their districts : but on receiving the summons from the French King, his displeasure was more highly excited. The conqueror of France could not brook so public an insult from a person, who but a few years before had quitted the field with precipitation at his approach. The only answer therefore he returned to the messengers who delivered it was, “ That he would

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"readily visit Paris, since he was thus invited, but it should be at the head of sixty thousand men." This threat, however, he was never able to put in execution, for being soon after so far reduced by the fatal distemper which preyed on his vitals, that he could not sit on horseback, his own troops were greatly dismayed, and his enemies inspired with fresh courage.

The King of France no sooner received this indignant message, and with it a true state of the Prince's declining health, than he secretly made preparations for war: the first step he took was to dispatch the Count d'Armagnac, the Lord d'Albert, and the other rebellious Gascon Lords, with a strong body of forces, to endeavour to recover their own demesnes, which the Prince of Wales had taken possession of on their retreat: at the same time he gave orders to his Brother the Duke of Anjou, who lay at Thoulouse, to assist these Lords in a private manner, without throwing aside the mask of

of amity. They accordingly made an inroad into Rovergne, and took several places; but the vigilance of the Prince of Wales, who had thrown strong garrisons into all the fortresses of his dominions, prevented the Lords from making any great progress.

King Charles now finding the plan of his proposed vengeance ripe for execution, sent off a defiance to the King of England, and to load it with a greater degree of insult, ordered it to be delivered to him by one of the lowest officers of his household. Before King Edward could receive intelligence of his design, he got possession of Ponthieu, the Burghers of the city of Abbeville having treacherously opened their gates to him, and set an example which the whole province followed.

The English Monarch, at length aroused from the lethargy out of which his Son had so often in vain endeavoured to awake him, made the necessary preparations for securing  
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the rest of his territories in France : incensed at this deceitful conduct of the French King, he threatened to put to death all the hostages who remained in his hands ; but listening on reflection to the dictates of Humanity, he abstained from such ungenerous revenge. To shew his adversary how much he resented this unexpected breach of the late treaty, he re-assumed the style and dignity of King of France ; and laying aside his usual seal, made use of others, whereon were quartered the arms of England and France, and inscribed alternately, EDWARDUS, ANGLIÆ ET FRANCIAE REX ; or FRANCIAE ET ANGLIÆ REX.

In the mean time the Dukes of Berry and Anjou, assisted by Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, who was on this occasion recalled from Spain, invaded the dominions of the Prince of Wales. In a few weeks sixty towns and fortresses submitted to the obedience of the French King without any resistance,

sistance, through the treachery of the inhabitants, excited by the clergy, and protected by the forces under the command of the two Dukes. The English with the Prince of Wales were too inconsiderable in number to prevent this defection; but King Edward sending expeditiously a considerable body of troops to the Prince's aid, under his Son Edmund of Langley, Earl of Cambridge, and his Son-in-law John Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, he was enabled to make some head against them. Many skirmishes happened between the contending parties, in which success sometimes crowned one side, sometimes the other; but the Prince of Wales being confined by his disorder at Angoulesme, and his troops divided to defend the different fortresses, the English Commanders chose not to hazard a general engagement.

The King of France during this time was employed in the northern parts of his kingdom: he spent the beginning of the year

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at Harfleur, in equipping a fleet to invade England, with a formidable army under the conduct of his Brother Philip, the Duke of Burgundy; but after all his preparations he was obliged to lay this expedition aside to repel the English, who were retaliating his intentions upon him. The Duke of Lancaster having landed at Calais with a considerable body of troops, made such inroads into France, and committed such depredations, that the French King ordered his men of war to be laid up, and directed his Brother to lead his forces towards Picardy, to stop the progress of the English arms: he accordingly encamped opposite them near St. Omer, and though he was greatly superior in numbers, yet he refused to give them battle; for the King his Brother remembering that in former actions superiority had not availed, he prudently commanded the Duke to avoid a decisive engagement. The English Prince, judging it rashness to attack the French in their trenches against such odds, drew up his army in order of

battle for several days, and contented himself with thus setting them at defiance.

The armies in the southern parts confined themselves to sieges, taking and re-taking towns and castles from each other; and in this manner they were employed for several campaigns, during which nothing more than the usual occurrences happened, except the loss of two gallant Knights, which befel the Prince of Wales about this time.

The Lord James Audeley, who had behaved with so much bravery at the battle of Roictiers, and on many other occasions, being bereaved by sickness of his Son Sir James Audeley, a hopeful young Gentleman, he desired leave of the Prince to retire to England. The Prince consented, but with great reluctance; for though his Lordship's eminent services demanded this indulgence, he could not suffer so useful and

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beloved a Nobleman to leave him without feeling the extrekest regret.

Lord John Chandos, who equalled Lord Audeley in merit, being appointed Seneschal of Poictou on the resignation of that Nobleman, he took every opportunity of annoying the French. Returning one day from an expedition against them, slightly attended, he fell in unexpectedly with a party of the enemy, and a sharp encounter ensued: it was early in the morning, and the ground happening to be slippery from a hoar frost, Lord Chandos striking violently at one of his adversaries with a massy battle-axe, slid and fell down; before he could rise, a rapier was thrust through the sight of his visor, and entered his face just below his eye; the blow was given by so strong an arm that it penetrated his head, and his Lordship, after a few struggles, shewed no symptoms of life. Sir Edward Clifford who was near at hand hastened to his aid; but though he arrived too late, yet

yet he valiantly defended the body of his friend, and put the French to flight. After the action was over, Sir Edward perceiving signs of life in the wounded Knight, caused him to be carefully disarmed, and to be borne softly on the shields of his men to a neighbouring fortres, where, notwithstanding every assistance, he expired the next day in great agonies.

The Prince of Wales and all the English sincerely lamented the loss of this brave Nobleman: even the King of France, his enemy, is said to have greatly grieved at his death, remarking, that there was not a person living so likely to have renewed the peace between the two crowns as Lord John Chandos, he being greatly valued by King Edward, and universally esteemed and beloved. No Knight ever acquired greater renown, either for valour or judicious conduct: in the battles of Cressy, of Poictiers, of Najara, and all the other actions in which he had a share, none behaved more

gallantly, or maintained with greater firmness the English name; at the same time he possessed so much candour and impartiality, as never to deny his enemies their just praise; with such prudence and moderation, that before a battle he never contemned them, and when they were conquered, he never insolently triumphed over them: in war he was a rigid exacter of discipline, but in peace courteous and affable. To sum up his character, being on the first list of Knights of the Garter, he supported the dignity of that institution, by observing his vows with the utmost punctuality, and preserving his honour unspotted. To shew the respect he bore his dear Lord the Prince of Wales (to whose excellencies no one nearer approached than himself) he left him all his possessions in Normandy, the yearly revenues of which amounted to forty thousand franks, or four thousand pounds sterling.

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After the death of Lord Chandos, whose courage and vigilance had hitherto kept them in awe, some other Barons of Gascoigne and Poictou fell from their allegiance to the English government. The Prince of Wales through his illness being unable to exert himself, this defection every day increased to his great mortification : his mighty soul began to bend beneath the weight of his diseased body, and his name no longer appeared tremendous to his enemies ; but still his troops frequently gave proofs that their invincible spirit was not diminished.

The Companions on the English side having taken the Castle of Belle Pêche, belonging to Lewis Duke of Bourbon, they found therein the Lady his Mother, whom they made prisoner in expectation of receiving a considerable ransom for her. The Duke hearing of this event was so incensed, that he left Paris, where he then resided, and hastened to her relief, resolving not to

leave the castle till he had regained possession of it : for this purpose he raised a considerable army, and being reinforced by the Lord of Sancerre, a Marshal of France, with a large body of troops, he laid siege to it. In order to reduce the place more at his leisure, and to secure his men from the inclemency of the season, for it was now winter, he built a strong fortress near the castle, encompassed it by a ditch, and defended it with towers. Instead of artillery, the use of which was then scarcely known, the Duke erected enormous engines, with which he cast huge stones and pieces of timber into the castle : this so affrighted his Mother that she sent to him, desiring he would forbear to use those horrid weapons, which struck her and her female attendants with so much terror. The Duke supposing that the Duchess was excited by his enemies to make this demand for their own ease, refused to comply with her request,

The Companions at length, finding themselves greatly streightened, applied to the Prince of Wales for succour, who immediately ordered his Brother the Earl of Cambridge to march to their relief. The Earl, attended by Lord Pembroke, Lord John Montague, and many other Knights, raised as many forces as he was able, but still was greatly inferior to the French: with this small army he encamped for fifteen days opposite the Duke of Bourbon, who lay within his fortifications, not daring, though so superior, to attack the English. The Duke even sent to collect a greater power, and received considerable reinforcements; notwithstanding which he still continued on the defensive,

'The Earl of Cambridge thereon sent a herald with a defiance to the Duke, wherein he informed him, that if he did not come out of his trenches and give him battle, he was resolved, the third day from that, to set the Lady of Bourbon on horseback, and convey

convey her away before their faces in the middle of the day. The Duke still not choosing to hazard an engagement, on the day appointed the English General drew up his forces in order of battle early in the morning, and commanded the trumpets to be sounded in token of defiance : after waiting in the field some hours, he ordered a march to be sounded : the Companions then joined him, a free communication having always been preserved between the castle and the camp, bringing with them all their valuable effects, and the Lady of Bourbon mounted on a palfrey richly caparisoned, attended by her Ladies and servants. When the castle was demolished, the English marched from before it in sight of the Duke of Bourbon and the French army, without the least molestation ; so great was the dread they still entertained of the English arms.

The Companions took the Duchess of Bourbon with them to a fortress which they held

held in the Limosin, where she remained a prisoner. The Prince of Wales, naturally gallant and humane, was greatly displeased with the confinement of the Duchess ; he said, " He waged not war against women :" however, as the Companions were under less restraint than regular troops, and subsisted by their plunder, he could not take her out of their hands. But this saying being reported to them, they agreed to set her at liberty ; and to shew that their determination proceeded from respect for the Prince, they asked no other ransom for her than Sir Simon Burleigh, an English Knight, then a prisoner with the French, for whom they knew the Prince entertained a great affection. This offer was accepted with great readiness by the Duke of Bourbon ; and the Prince of Wales had the satisfaction to see, from this incident, how greatly he was beloved by all his dependents.

A further instance of the great impression English valour had formerly made on the minds

minds of the French, and of their extreme reluctance to meet them in the field, notwithstanding the superiority of their numbers, happened the same year: Sir Robert Knowles marched out of Calais with thirty thousand men, and passing through part of Artois and Champaigne, wasting and ravaging the country as he proceeded, suddenly appeared before the gates of Paris: the French King was then in that city; but though surrounded by a court composed of many gallant Cavaliers, and a very considerable army, he could not prevail on himself to assist his distressed subjects, Sir Robert staid before the city two days, and notwithstanding the King could discern from his palace the destruction of his country, the English burning all before them to provoke him to a battle, yet his extreme caution prevailed, and he suffered them to proceed without molestation. However, dissentions at length arising among the English, and some of the Lords under Sir Robert, who disdained to be governed

verned by a person of inferior rank, growing disobedient to his commands, they separated themselves from him. Thus weakened, Sir Robert was unable to penetrate into Guienne as he intended, but was obliged to take shelter in Britany, where those who had continued under his conduct arrived safe, whilst those who had withdrawn themselves from his protection became a prey to their enemies.

The following summer the Dukes of Anjou and Berry attacked the principality of Acquitain in two places at once, each with a formidable army, intending to meet and besiege the Prince of Wales in his residence, the city of Angoulesme. The Prince hearing of their intentions summoned all his forces, and, ill as he was, publicly declared that his enemies should never find him immured in any fortress, but that he would meet them in the field and fight them fairly, however formidable their forces: in consequence of this resolution he took

took leave of his Lady the Prince's, who now parted from him with greater reluctance than ever, having none of those pleasing hopes to console her, which had been her support when he departed from her on his expedition to Spain : then he went from her in health and vigour, with assurances of success, and with the greatest probability of acquiring additional renown ; but now she could call none of these cheerful expectations to her aid : his weak frame deprived him of that fire which used to animate his troops and ensure them victory, consequently dejection, unallayed by hope, preyed on her susceptible heart, and caused her unceasingly to mourn the absence of her Lord.

The Prince having set up his standard at Cogniac, those who retained their loyalty resorted to it; and receiving at the same time a reinforcement from his royal Father under the command of the Duke of Lancaster, he was once more enabled to take  
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the field, with a prospect of repelling the invaders of his dominions. In the interim, the Duke of Anjou penetrated without controul to La Linde, situated on the river Dordonne, about a league from Bergerac. The town was commanded by Sir Thomas Battefoile, a Knight of Gascoigne, with a strong garrison, and every thing necessary for its defence. The Duke laid siege to it, and to intimidate the inhabitants declared, he would not leave the place till he had them all at his devotion; but at the same time he offered to receive them under his protection, if they would submit themselves without force to his mercy. The people of the town wished to follow the example of their neighbours, and to return to their former Sovereigns the French; they therefore admitted emissaries from the Duke, who prevailed on the Governor by a considerable sum then paid him, and the promise of an annual pension, to deliver up the town. This agreement had not been kept so secret, but that some of the Knights who retained  
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their disloyalty to the Prince of Wales gained intelligence of it, and informed the Earl of Cambridge, then at Bergerac, of the intended treachery, the night before it was to be carried into execution.

Enraged at the disloyalty of the Governor, the Earl, the Lord Thomas Falton, and Sir John Greilly, Capital de Busche, swore they would be present at the delivery of the town: accordingly before it was light they set out from Bergerac, and by break of day reached La Linde. On a signal given, a gate was opened to them by the loyal part of the troops in the town, through which they marched with their forces, and arrived at the opposite gate as the French were about to take possession of it. Sir Thomas Battefoile stood amazed at this sudden appearance of the Knights, and wondered how they could have received intelligence of his design; but Sir John Greilly gave him not time to indulge his conjectures long, for alighting from his horse

horse he came up to him, and with one blow of his sword struck him breathless to the ground. The party of the French who were to have taken possession of the town, finding their plot discovered, hastily withdrew from the gate and fled to their army. The English Lords judged it more prudent to secure the town than to pursue them; which being done, they were inclined to put all the inhabitants to the sword for their treacherous conduct, but on their alledging that they were over-awed, and compelled by the Governor to act as they had done, they were pardoned. The Lord Felton and the Captal de Busche staid in the town till the Duke of Anjou, hearing of the Prince of Wales's approach, thought it prudent to retire.

A council was now called by the French General, at which Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, afterwards styled the Restorer of France, was present, to deliberate whether they should give battle to the Prince: some

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alleged, that his health was so impaired that he was only the shadow of himself, and not to be dreaded as formerly; but the greater part, and among these Sir Bertrand, asserted, that even the presence of such a General in the field was of great importance, and carried Courage, if not Fortune, with it; they therefore thought it would not be prudent to withstand the last efforts of his expiring vigour, but rather to wait till his disorder should rid them of so formidable an enemy. This advice prevailed, and after supplying the places he had taken with strong garrisons, the Duke of Anjou marched to join his Brother the Duke of Berry, who, having entered the Prince's territories by another part, lay before Limoges.

This city had been strongly fortified by the Prince of Wales, and having great confidence in the Bishop, who lay under the highest obligations to him, he had left but few English in the garrison. But the Pre-

late, forgetful of the favours he had received, entered into a treaty with the Dukes, and having first induced the inhabitants to declare for the French, they overpowered the garrison, and delivered up the city. The French Princes, after staying a few days to refresh their men, left a strong body of troops behind them, and divided their armies for the defence of the towns they held.

When the Prince of Wales heard of this transaction he was greatly exasperated, and with difficulty could he prevail on himself to credit the falsehood of the Bishop, to whom he had ever behaved with unfeigned complacence; but knowing the importance of the city of Limoges, he determined to recover it at all events. He first sent his heralds to the inhabitants, commanding them to deliver the Bishop up to him, and, acknowledging the impropriety of their conduct, to return to their duty. The citizens, however, finding themselves encom-

passed with strong fortifications, abundantly supplied with provisions, and supported by a numerous garrison, treated the Prince's commands with contempt. The Prince now sent them a message in a harsher strain; he assured them, that if they did not immediately submit to him, he would come in person against them, and having razed their city to the ground, put to the sword every inhabitant without distinction. Encouraged by the Commanders of the garrison, the Burghers not only refused to take the message into consideration, but affronted his heralds; and set him at defiance. This being reported to the Prince, he was so enraged at it, that he swore by the soul of his Father that he would take vengeance on the insolent rebels, and make them dearly repent their falsehood.

He thereon marched hastily from Cognac with a considerable force, accompanied by his Brothers the Duke of Lancaster and the Earl of Cambridge, with many other Lords.

When the Prince began his march, he was so debilitated that he could not ride on horseback, but was drawn in an open chariot: being arrived before Limoges, he again vowed never to return till he had the city at his mercy; so much was his noble mind, unused to dissimulation or falsehood, irritated by the treacherous conduct of the Bishop, and of a city towards which he had always behaved with the greatest lenity and goodwill. The Bishop and Burghers seeing the Prince thus determined, began to repent of their treason; but they were now no longer master of the city, the garrison placed there by the Duke of Anjou holding them in subjection.

The Prince finding that the enemy, driven to desperation by his threats, were resolved to defend themselves to the last extremity, concluded it would be too hazardous an undertaking to storm the place in its present state; he therefore thought it necessary first to undermine the walls, for

which purpose he had brought with him a number of pioneers. Whilst he was thus employed, Sir Bertrand du Guesclin made an inroad into his dominions, and committed great devastations ; but the Prince would not be diverted from the enterprize he was engaged in. The engineers in about a month having made a considerable breach in the wall, the Prince ordered it to be stormed, determined, agreeable to his former resolution, to put both the garrison and inhabitants to the sword without exception, to deter others from the like perfidy and ingratitude. Accordingly his troops entered the breach, and beating down the gates and barriers with their axes, began to execute their Commander's intended vengeance.

A select body, commissioned by the Prince for that service, hastened to the Bishop's palace to secure him : when he was brought before his Highness he beheld him with the utmost indignation, and notwithstanding all his supplications for mercy, made him no other

other answer than to assure him he should lose his head.

The three chief Commanders of the garrison, when they found the English gave no quarter, exhorted each other to sell their lives as dearly as possible; and drawing together a few chosen men, they placed themselves in an advantageous situation, with their banners displayed, resolved to defend themselves to the last. They were immediately attacked by the Duke of Lancaster and the Earls of Cambridge and Pembroke, who in the true spirit of chivalry, that they might engage on equal terms, alighted from their horses and entered into single combat with the three Generals: the contest was maintained on both sides with so much gallantry and courage, that the Prince drew near in his chariot to behold them. He was so great an admirer of martial achievements, and so charmed with the skill and valour of his adversaries, that he commanded no more slaughter should be made in the city,

and that all who were then engaged should not suffer beyond the law of arms. The French Knights hearing this, delivered up their swords to their antagonists, and were received as their prisoners.

Before the Prince put a stop to the slaughter great numbers were slain, and the city, after being given up to plunder, was burnt and levelled to the ground.

The Bishop had many friends among the English, particularly the Duke of Lancaster, who artfully pretending to be his enemy, prevailed on the Prince his Brother to deliver him into his hands, and to leaye the execution of his sentence to him; this being granted, the Duke sent privately to Pope Urban the Fifth, who was just returned from Italy to Avignon, informing him of the Bishop's danger, and that a letter from his Holiness in his behalf, directed to himself, might prove beneficial to him. The Pope took the hint, and immediately wrote

wrote to the Duke, desiring him, in reverence, to the Apostolic See, to procure a pardon for the Bishop and send him to Avignon. The Duke of Lancaster shewed the letter to the Prince his Brother, who acknowledged that the Pope's request ought to be granted; but remembering the provocation he had received, he could not help wishing that his Brother had not delayed the execution so long.

After the reduction of Limoges, the Prince and his army returned with their spoil and prisoners to Cognac, where the Princess met him with a mixture of pain and pleasure: the success which had attended his arms gave her satisfaction, but her soul was tortured when she beheld the hasty steps of the grim tyrant to rob her of all she held dear: to observe the secret venom, for which no antidote could be found, gradually wasting that grace and beauty which had once attracted the admiration of every beholder, gave her inexpres-  
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sible pangs. She however strove to assume a cheerful countenance, and imitate, in some degree, the magnanimity of her Edward. He beheld the uplifted dart of death with the same undauntedness he had often met those of his foes in battle, and felt no apprehensions but such as were occasioned by a reluctance to part from the woman he loved, and from friends whom he respected.

The winter now approaching, he permitted the greater part of his forces to retire to their quarters; and this proved the last warlike exploit of this renowned Prince.

About this time he was pleased to express his love for his Brother the Duke of Lancaster, by granting him the town and castle of La Roche sur Yon. The instrument bears date the eighth of October 1370, wherein the Prince is styled Edward, eldest Son of the King of France and of England, Prince of Aquitain and of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, Earl of Chester, Lord of Biscay and

and of the castle of Ordiales. Appendant is his seal of green wax, on which he is represented in his robes, sitting on a throne, with a circle on his head, and a sceptre in his right hand as Prince of Aquitaine: on each side are two ostrich feathers and scrotes, whereon are the words ICH DIEN, and over which are the letters E P, viz. Edwardus Princeps. On the reverse he is figured on horseback, his surcoat, shield, and the caparison of his horse, charged with the arms of France and England: the inscription round the seal is in Saxon characters after the manner of the age, viz. S. EDVARDI PRIMOGENITI REGIS ANGL. PRINCIPIS AQUITANIÆ ET WALLIÆ, DUCIS CORNUBIÆ ET COMITIS CESTRIÆ.

In the beginning of the year 1371, 45th Edw. III. Edward, the eldest Son of the Prince of Wales, died at Bourdeaux in the seventh year of his age, to the extreme regret of his parents and of the whole court:  
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the Princess, in particular, was greatly affected at this accumulation of her sorrows, and viewed, with redoubled horror, the approaching diminution of her family; this loss appeared as a prelude to one of more importance, and she wept at the same time the present and expected evil.

It was judged necessary by the Prince of Wales's physicians, that he should try the efficacy of his native air on his decaying constitution; he therefore prepared to set out for England. The command of the fleet appointed for his convoy he gave to his Brother the Earl of Cambridge, and left the Duke of Lancaster, to succeed him in the government of his principality. Before his departure he summoned all the Barons and Knights of Gascoigne and Poictou that retained their loyalty, and took his leave of them in the most pathetic and friendly manner; he conjured them, by that attention to their interest which he had unceasingly shewn during a residence of ten years,  
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by that courtesy and friendship with which he had always treated them, and by that duty which they owed him as their Lord, to continue stedfast in their fidelity; he desired they would cheerfully transfer the respectful homage they had ever paid him to his Brother the Duke of Lancaster, and unite in opposing the common enemy; then in a softened tone of voice, and with a graceful air, in which dignity and affection were mingled, giving way to the effusions of his humane and princely heart, he concluded with benevolent wishes for their welfare, and assurances of his continued regard: His whole court were moved with this solemn adieu, which the Prince's visible decline gave too sure a prospect of being an eternal one: with one voice the Barons assured him of their loyalty, and, to confirm their vows, did fealty and homage in his presence to the Duke his representative. This done, his Highness embarked at Bourdeaux in January, with the

Princess

Princess and their son Richard, and arrived at Plymouth in a few days.

The Prince was conveyed in a litter to Windsor, where King Edward then held his court: he was there received with great affection by his royal parents, whose hearts felt unutterable pangs at the sad reverse they now beheld. Instead of the blooming Son they had parted from a few years before, full of health and crowned with glory, to receive again to their arms only a faint resemblance of him, forced by the fell Destroyer to relinquish those territories he had bravely won, was one of Fate's severest strokes, and probably hastened Queen Philippa's death, which happened shortly after. Had he died on the bed of honour, they would not have repined; but thus to fall by a lingering disease, perhaps by perfidy, excited even murmurs.

He soon after retired to his palace, at Berkhamstead, and from the salubrity of  
the

the air recovered a small degree of health; but the accounts he frequently received from Acquitain of the success of the French, and the increasing spirit of defection among his Gascon Nobles (for since his departure, many who had given him assurances of their loyalty had been either intimidated or seduced from their allegiance) gave him continual vexation, and retarded his recovery.

A great part of those who remained faithful to him being pent up in Thouars by Sir Bertrand du Guesclin, and seeing no possibility of withstanding that General, they agreed to surrender themselves prisoners if they were not succoured by a certain time: a cessation of arms accordingly took place, when they gave the Prince of Wales intelligence of their capitulation, and desired some assistance. King Edward, exasperated at this reverse of fortune, and unwilling to have the laurels he had gathered in his youth blasted on his hoary brow,

brow, fitted out a formidable fleet and raised a large army, determined not only to relieve his Gascon subjects, but to carry his arms into the dominions of his enemy. The Prince of Wales, though still weak and emaciated, resolved to accompany his Father; his great soul would not submit to the infirmities of the body, or suffer him to remain inactive while glorious deeds were to be atchieved.

It was the latter end of August before the necessary preparations could be made, when this armament sailed for Rochelle; but the winds proving contrary, it was kept at sea six weeks without being able to make that port. The King now found that however flattering Fortune may be for a while, she often proves fickle and inconstant even to her greatest favourites. In all the affairs of life, though the tide for a time flows smoothly, and the gale proves favourable, yet a reflux may be expected, and adverse storms will surely arise. During the prosperous

spurious part of his reign, Edward was quickly wafted to the shore where success and glory awaited his arrival; but the tide once turned, in vain he strove to reach his more successful enemies, who in their turns now enjoyed the smiles of the deluding Goddess. There being no possibility of arriving in time to prevent the surrender of his subjects, agreeable to the convention, he sailed back, and in a few days re-landed his troops in England. The consequence of this unhappy voyage was the loss of all Poictou and Sanctoigne.

The Prince of Wales now seeing that it was hardly possible for him to recover any tolerable degree of health, so as to be enabled ever to take the field, he surrendered into his Father's hands his principality of Aquitain, which from that time the King governed by Lieutenants. He now retired to his estate in Hertfordshire, and for the four succeeding years, for so long was his existence continued to him, he took very

little share in the national concerns. The preparatory steps for securing the crown to his Son Richard on the demise of his grandfather, chiefly employed his attention. He knew how apt those who stand nearest to a throne are to seat themselves on it, if they can take advantage of the youth or inability of the lawful heir. To prevent any attempt of this kind, which was greatly to be feared from the ambition of his Brother the Duke of Lancaster, he was careful to have his Son publicly declared successor to the throne after the decease of his royal Father and himself. The people had such veneration for the heroic virtues of the Prince of Wales, that the Lords and Commons agreed to the proposal with the greatest readiness, and passed an act for that purpose. The King and all his Sons likewise swore to maintain the right of the young Prince after his Father's decease.

The sickness of the Prince of Wales was no less fatal to the kingdom than to himself; for the King, in his old age, seemed

to have lost all those virtues, which, in his younger years, gained him the character of one of the bravest and wisest Monarchs of the age : the decline of his life corresponded not with the splendid scenes which had graced the former periods of it ; besides, beholding the loss of his foreign dominions, the fruits of many a well-fought field, and being unsuccessful in every attempt to defend them, he felt the decay of his authority at home. During the vigour of his age the pursuits of war and ambition had employed his thoughts ; but now, at an unseasonable time of life he began to indulge himself in pleasure. The Queen being dead, he attached himself to Dame Alice Piers, a lady of great sense and high spirit ; by these she acquired such influence over his Majesty, that the whole kingdom were disgusted at it ; and in order to silence the remonstrances of his Parliament, he found it necessary to remove her from court. The indolence also naturally attendant on old age and infirmities had made him in a great

tain, yet, when the fatal hour arrived that was to level to the dust the man whom she loved with unabating ardour, her fortitude forsook her, and she bewailed his loss with all the softness of her sex.

Never was a tribute of grief more justly paid than to this deserving Prince, who, from the earliest period of his life to the hour of his dissolution, excelled in all those virtues and accomplishments which entitled him to the character of a great and good man. In private life he enjoyed, in an eminent degree, all those qualifications that enabled him to perform every social duty; and so greatly was he beloved by those whom he honoured with his friendship, that the Lord Greilly, Captal de Busche, at that time a prisoner in France, bemoaned his loss in so singular a manner, that his death, which happened soon after that of his royal Master, is supposed to proceed from his excess of grief.

As a Prince, he was adorned with all those shining qualities which cast a lustre on his exalted station : his turn of mind was exactly suited to that propensity for martial deeds, which was so much the taste of the age in which he lived ; but though he commanded armies, and gained unparalleled victories, when others begin to learn the art of war, yet his mind was not elated with conquest. His valour and military talents, great as they were, formed the smallest part of his merit ; his generosity, humanity, affability, and moderation gained him the approbation of the whole world ; and the most shining of antient or modern history never produced a character in which so many virtues centered untinged by any vices. Though deservedly renowned for wisdom, justice, and liberality, the chief of all his mental accomplishments were humility and piety ; from these he derived that fortitude and resolution which enabled him to brave unnumbered foes, whilst they induced him to ascribe to Omnipotence the

glory of all his actions. Walsingham, an old historian of credit, thus emphatically writes of him ; “ The good fortune of “ England, as if it had been inherent in “ his person, flourished in his health, lan-“ guished in his sickness, and expired at his “ death ; with whom died all the hope of “ Englishmen. During his life they feared “ no invasion of the enemy, nor encounter “ in battle ; for he assailed no nation but “ he overcame, and besieged no city that he “ did not take.”

The Prince’s body, after being embalmed, lay several days in state ; an infinite number of all ranks flocked to pay their last sad homage to their beloved Prince, whilst every eye or tongue proclaimed the affectionate emotions of their hearts, and the greatness of that merit which called forth such universal encomiums. It was then carried in a stately herse drawn by twelve horses (the whole court and both houses of Parliament attending in mourning) through

through the city to Canterbury, where it was interred with great funeral pomp in the cathedral.

Charles, the French King, in the true spirit of noble gallantry which adorned that age, though an enemy, distinguished also the Prince's exalted merit, by performing his obsequies with great solemnity, attended by all the principal Peers and Prelates of his realm.

A magnificent monument of grey marble was shortly after erected over his grave, on which lies his portraiture made of copper gilt : the tomb is decorated with escutcheons of copper enamelled, with his arms and devices; on an iron bar over it are placed a helmet, a coat of mail, and gauntlets ; and on a pillar adjoining is a shield richly diapered with gold : the real armour he is said to have used in battle.

But

But this sumptuous monument has no other epitaph than the following lines in old French, and some monkish verses in the same language, which serve only to put the reader in remembrance of the common fate of human greatness, without enumerating any of the virtues or glorious deeds of this great Prince, which the occasion so particularly demanded: “*Cy gis le noble Prince Monsieur Edward, aisnez Fils du tres nble Roy Edward Tiers, jadis Prince d'Aquitain & de Galles, Duc de Cornwaille, & Compte de Chester; qui morust en la feste de la trinité, questoit le viii jour de Juin, l'an. de grace mil trois centz septante fizme. l'Alme de qui Dieu est mercie, Amen.*” Thus translated: “Here lieth the noble Prince the Lord Edward, eldest Son of the most noble King Edward the Third, late Prince of Aquitain and of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester; who died on the feast of Trinity, which was on the eighth day of June, in the year of grace one thousand three hundred and “seventy-

"seventy-six. On whose soul God have  
"mercy, Amen." The verses are too con-  
temptible for insertion \*.

King Edward survived his beloved Son about ten months, expiring in the sixty-fifth year of his age, and the fifty-first of his reign. His grand wish had ever been to leave the possession of a throne he had filled so long, and with so much dignity, to so worthy a successor ; but being disappointed, he seemed to live without any comfort, or the least enjoyment of life. England was thus deprived at once of two Princes, its chief ornaments and support ; and the people were now sensible of the irreparable loss they had sustained.

\* This shews the low ebb of learning at that period : it was not till the fifteenth century, when the art of printing was first brought into England, that literature began to flourish, or that the English language was reduced to any degree of purity : before that time a barbarous French or Latin were made use of in all records and public deeds.

The reign of Edward was not only one of the longest, but also the most glorious which occurs in the annals of this nation : his victories over the French place his name foremost among the English heroes, and cause it to descend with renown to posterity. The domestic government of this Prince is no less worthy of commemoration, and proves that he was possessed of all those eminent talents which are necessary both for a legislator and a warrior. The turbulence of the great Barons being curbed, the Parliament during his reign rose into greater consideration, and acquired a more regular authority, than in any former times ; and King Edward took no steps of moment without consulting them, and obtaining their approbation. A Prince of so much sense and spirit as Edward, and who had humbled the superior power of France, could not submit to the tyranny of the court of Rome ; he consequently much abridged the papal usurpation over his kingdom, notwithstanding it had been so long established

established there in common with other states.

These encomiums proceed from a contemplation of the general tenor of his reign; whilst yet his mind was in its vigour, and before he became incapacitated by age from acting with prudence and resolution. The latter days of this Monarch (as before observed) were not unclouded: had his sunset with its meridian splendor, his regal character would have been unblemished; but was it to be expected from so long a reign? the brightest geniuses are the soonest exhausted; and the greater the exertion of the mental faculties the quicker their decay. He was not however so insensible to the public interest, but that he sincerely lamented the loss of his godlike Son; and whilst he sunk under the blow, felt both for his people and himself.

His subjects also respected him even amidst his failings: the remembrance of his

his former prudent conduct, and the glories of his reign, suppressed for a time their murmurs ; nor was it till his imprudencies became pernicious to the kingdom, that they made any vigorous opposition to them. But how degrading a reverse to his former glory did this great Prince experience in his last moments ! Some time before his death he had removed from his palace at Eltham to Sheen in Surrey, that he might indulge uninterrupted the infatuation which he had suffered to overwhelm him, and enjoy, without restraint, the company of his favourite mistress. The fatigues of his youth having greatly impaired his constitution, the infirmities of age came upon him before they were to be expected from the common course of nature ; enervated also by indolence and riot, to which he was unaccustomed, but which he encouraged to obliterate his grief, a malignant fever, the fatal consequence, found him an easy prey, and soon put an end to his existence. When his disorder became so violent as to leave

no hope of his recovery, all his attendants forsook him; even his Mistress, on whom he had lavished his favours with so profuse a hand, and for whose sake he had incurred the displeasure of his people, even the faithless Alice, before he could be insensible of her ingratitude, shewed on how weak a foundation the fabric of her boasted love had been reared. Whilst he was yet in the agonies of death, with the utmost coolness she stript him of his rings and jewels, leaving him without one domestic to close his eyes, or to do the last sad offices to his breathless coarse. The retired manner in which he had lately lived, secluded from his Nobles and the principal Officers of his household, could alone have rendered this treatment practicable. Thus bereft of comfort and assistance, and in a condition to which very few even of the meanest of his subjects were ever reduced, the mighty Edward lay expiring, when a Priest, urged by Humanity and the duty of his profession, approached his bed: perceiving him still to breathe,

breathe, he began to administer some spiritual comfort to him, and for a while detained his lingering soul, till having expressed a deep sense of sorrow and contrition for the errors of his life, he died pronouncing the name of Jesus. How obscure the exit of a Prince whose reign had been the most brilliant of any Monarch that had ever swayed the sceptre of England ! Was it possible to conceive his feelings when he found himself thus abandoned, and reduced to a situation so extreme from what he had ever been accustomed to; how humiliating must we suppose them to be ; nor would they afford a less instructive lecture on the vanity of human greatness, than those of the wisest of Kings.

King Edward's posterity by his Queen, Philippa of Hainault, were numerous, and disgraced not their royal Parents : the eldest of them was Edward, the heroic Prince whose glorious actions and virtues have here been recorded ; his second Son (for such as died

died in their infancy are unnoticed) was Lionel Duke of Clarence, who of all the family resembled most his Father and eldest Brother in their noble qualities. By Elizabeth, daughter and heiress to the Earl of Ulster, he left one Princess, who was afterwards married to Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, and from whom King Edward the Fourth was lineally descended. The third of this illustrious progeny was John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, whose Son seized on the English throne, and reigned under the title of Henry the Fourth: from him the crown descended to his Son and Grandson, Henry the Fifth and Sixth, but was recovered from the last, who wanted the warlike abilities of his Father, by Edward the Fourth, to whom it certainly by right of primogeniture belonged. Edmund, created Earl of Cambridge by his Father, and some years after Duke of York by his Nephew Richard the Second, was the next of this royal family; and Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, the fifth and last. These

Y

Princes

Princes had a great share in the concerns of the succeeding reigns : the former lived to a considerable age, and then died a natural death ; but the latter, having always opposed the administration of his Nephew, was seized by his command and carried to Calais : unwilling to bring him to a public trial, as he was beloved by the people, Richard gave directions to the Earl of Nottingham, who was Governor of Calais, for his being privately murdered ; accordingly the Duke was conveyed by four men from the castle to an inn, where they smothered him between two feather-beds. The method which King Richard made use of to get the Duke of Gloucester into his power, is a proof of his treacherous and revengeful disposition. Displeased at the constant opposition of the Duke (who had the real interest of his King and country at heart) to his extravagance and dissipation, he determined privately to get rid of so troublesome a monitor, as he was too powerful to be apprehended openly, and brought regularly to justice ;

justice; he therefore went into Essex under pretence of hunting, and one evening paid him a visit at his seat at Pleshy. Having always kept up the appearance of affection and familiarity, the King was received with the utmost cordiality by the Duke and Duchess. Whilst they sat at supper, he told the Duke that he wanted to consult him on a very important affair relative to the state, and begged he would accompany him to London that evening, as his Council was to sit early the next morning. The unsuspecting Duke cheerfully complied, and set out with the King on horseback, attended only by a few domestics: as they approached Epping Forest, King Richard rode off at full gallop, and the Duke was immediately surrounded by a party of armed men that had laid in wait for them: being then hurried to the river's side he was put on board a ship, which instantly weighed anchor and the next day arrived at Calais, where he fell a prey to the infatiate malice of his enemies. King Edward had also four Daughters, for

all of whom their Father found suitable matches.

The Princess of Wales survived her beloved Lord about ten years, during which time she mourned his loss with unaffected sorrow, and shewed a sacred regard to his memory : this endeared her to the nation, and gained her universal respect. So great was the reverence of the people for her, that at her request the citizens of London laid aside their resentment against the Duke of Lancaster, who had excited their displeasure by his despotic and haughty conduct. Soon after the death of his Brother, the Duke having quarrelled with the Bishop of London, the citizens were so exasperated, that they proceeded to his palace (the Savoy) with an intent to have sacrificed him to their fury : he made his escape with great difficulty, having but just time to get into his barge ; and being carried to Lambeth where the Princess of Wales resided, he desired her mediation and protection.

So

So surely will unwarrantable haughtiness prove its own destroyer, and render on many occasions submission necessary; whilst a steady affable demeanor, not void of dignity, the only genuine pride that can truly adorn, ensures constant respect and unadulterated homage. The Princess, whose heart, like her late beloved Lord's, was ever open to the suppliant, sent three of her Knights to the enraged populace, to persuade them to cease their hostilities, and to be reconciled to the Duke. Impressed with veneration for the noble Mediatrix, they answered that they were at all times ready to obey her commands, and in honour to her would give over their attacks on the Duke's palace; this they immediately did, but as a token of their unfavourable opinion of him, they hung up his arms reversed in all the public streets, and ever after treated him with disrespect.

On another occasion, in the eighth year of her Son's reign, she again exerted herself

in the Duke's behalf. The King's favourites, between whom and the Duke there was great inveteracy, having incensed his Majesty against him, he fled to Pontefract castle, and there strongly fortified himself against his adversaries. The Princess, though she was apprized that both the Duke and the Ministers were justly disliked by the nation, and consequently not deserving of her care, yet, to prevent a civil war which seemed to be on the point of commencing, she undertook in person to mediate between them. Notwithstanding she was now grown very corpulent and unfit to travel, she made several journeys from one party to another, and by her influence and arguments effected a reconciliation, to the great satisfaction of the whole kingdom and her own eternal honour.

Not long after this commotion grief put an end to the life of this amiable Princess : for John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, one of her Sons by her first husband, attending King Richard in an expedition against Scotland, slew with

with his dagger in a quarrel the eldest Son of the Earl of Stafford : relying on the favour of the King, to whom he was so nearly allied by blood, he fled to a sanctuary at Beverly, and doubted not of receiving a speedy pardon ; but the King, exasperated at a murder which robbed him of a person for whom he had a great regard, delivered him into the hands of justice, without interesting himself in his favour. The Princess was no sooner informed of her Son's situation, than, incited by parental tenderness, she immediately sent to implore for him his Majesty's forgiveness : she conjured the King by that interest which she had in both, and by the duty he owed to a fond Mother, to spare a person so dear to her ; but Richard remained inexorable. On the return of her messenger to Wallingford, her summer residence, finding that her supplications were ineffectual, she was so depressed, that she died the fifth day after receiving the fatal intelligence. Thus fell a prey to grief the worthy Consort of the most

excellent of Princes : united by affection, they lived an instance that conjugal happiness is not incompatible with royalty, though in the alliances of Princes inclination is too often obliged to yield to reasons of state. Thrice happy they who, like the princely pair I celebrate, or the royal pair we serve, find the blessings of true love twisted in their bands, to soften those cares from which the most exalted condition is not entirely free.

Their son Richard had mounted the English throne on the decease of his royal Grandfather ; but his reign was far from being happy to himself, or advantageous to his people ; his prudent and intrepid conduct during the insurrection of Wat Tyler gave the people hopes that he inherited the spirit of his great Father, and that he would in the course of his life acquire an equal degree of glory ; but in proportion as he advanced in years these hopes were blasted, and his want of solid judgment appeared in every

every enterprize. This deficiency in penetration and solidity threw him into the hands of favourites, as it had before fatally done his predecessor Edward the Second, an error which the good sense and noble spirit of his Father and Grandfather had led them particularly to avoid.

Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, a young gentleman of an agreeable figure; and possessed of many splendid qualifications, but of dissolute manners, acquired an entire ascendant over him, and ruled him with the most absolute authority : Richard set no bounds to his affection for this young Lord ; he first created him Marquis of Dublin and then Duke of Ireland, titles unknown before in England : all favours passed through his hands, and access to the King could only be obtained through his mediation ; this consequently produced great animosity between the Minion and his Creatures on the one hand, and the Princes of the Blood and the chief Nobility on the other ; till the Nobles,

Nobles, unawed by the personal character of Richard, dispossessing him of all power, banished some of his favourites, and put others to death : the King however at length recovered his authority, and reigned with tolerable tranquillity for several years. During this period, though his public government appeared unexceptionable, in private life he was indolent, expensive, and addicted to low pleasures : he spent his time in feasting and jollity, and forgot his rank by admitting all degrees of men to his familiarity.

Towards the latter part of his reign, a dispute arising between the Duke of Hereford, eldest Son of the Duke of Lancaster, and the Duke of Norfolk, a day was appointed by the King for the decision of it by single combat, according to the custom of the times : the whole nation seemed interested in the event, and all the Nobility divided themselves into different parties on the occasion. But when the two champions appeared,

peared in the field, accounted for the fight, the King by the advice of his Council interposed, and prevented the effusion of such noble blood: however to shew his impartiality, he ordered both the combatants to leave the kingdom and retire to different countries. The Duke of Norfolk's banishment he declared perpetual; that of the Duke of Hereford he limited to ten years; and afterwards, on some circumstances appearing in his favour, the term was shortened to six years.

During the absence of the latter his Father the old Duke of Lancaster died, and he succeeded to the title; but Richard, afraid that his immense possessions would give too great weight to the Lancastrian faction, already become formidable to his crown, he retained them for his own use. Henry, the new Duke of Lancaster, had long acquired by his conduct and abilities the esteem of the public: he had served with distinction against the Infidels, and joined

joined to his valour those virtues and accomplishments which are sure to gain the esteem of mankind. The people, who must have an idol for their temporary adoration, finding nothing in Richard which they could love or revere, easily transferred to Henry that attachment which they would gladly have continued to a successor of their beloved Prince, had he been in the least deserving of it: they therefore lamented the Duke's banishment, and turned their eyes towards him as the only person who could retrieve the lost honour of the nation, or redress the abuses of government. Convinced of this disposition of the people towards him, he took advantage of it, and whilst Richard was engaged on an imprudent expedition to Ireland, landed at Ravenspur in Yorkshire: under pretext of recovering his hereditary possessions which the King unjustly detained from him, he summoned all his friends to his assistance, and soon saw himself at the head of sixty thousand men.

King  
EDWARD.

King Richard, receiving intelligence of this invasion, hastened over from Ireland and landed at Milford Haven with a considerable force; but either intimidated by the general combination of the kingdom, or infected by the same rebellious spirit, they gradually deserted him, till he found that only six thousand men followed his standard: he therefore retired with secrecy from this small body which only served to expose him to danger, and fled to the Isle of Anglesea, where he proposed to embark either for Ireland or France. The Duke of Lancaster, apprehensive of his pursuing this plan, sent the Earl of Northumberland to him with the strongest professions of loyalty and submission; and that Nobleman making himself master of the King's person by treachery, carried him to his enemy who waited at Flint castle.

Such of the Barons as were devoted to Richard, being either fled or imprisoned, and no opponents appearing against Henry, he began to carry his views to the crown. To this purpose he first extorted a resignation of it from the King, and then prevailed on both

Houses of Parliament, who were entirely at his devotion, to confirm it by passing an act for his deposition. The throne being thus declared vacant, the Duke of Lancaster stepped forth, and in a short but singular speech,\* asserted his right to it. No objection being brought against the claim, he was crowned

\* The following is the Duke's speech in the original language, which after having crossed himself on the forehead and breast, he pronounced aloud before the Parliament :  
 " In the name of Fadher, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, I  
 " Henry of Lancaster challenge this rewme of Ynglande,  
 " and the croun, with all the membres and appurtñances ;  
 " als I that am descendit by right line of the blood coming  
 " fro the gude King Henry Therde, and throke that right  
 " that God of his Grace hath ſent me, wth help of kyn  
 " and of my friends, to recover it ; the which rewme was  
 " in poyn̄ to be ondone by default of governance, and  
 " ondoying of the gude lawes." In order to understand this speech it is necessary to be observed, that there was a story believed by the common people, that Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, Son of Henry the Third, was really the elder Brother of Edward the First, but by reason of some deformities in his person, had been imposed on the nation in his stead. Henry therefore wiſhes to take advantage of this report, and to assert his right to the vacant throne, not only as next male heir to Richard, but as having pretensions founded on a prior claim, his Father having married the Grand-daughter of the Duke of Lancaster, who was thus believed to be the elder Brother of King Edward, and consequently entitled to the crown before either of the Princes of that name.

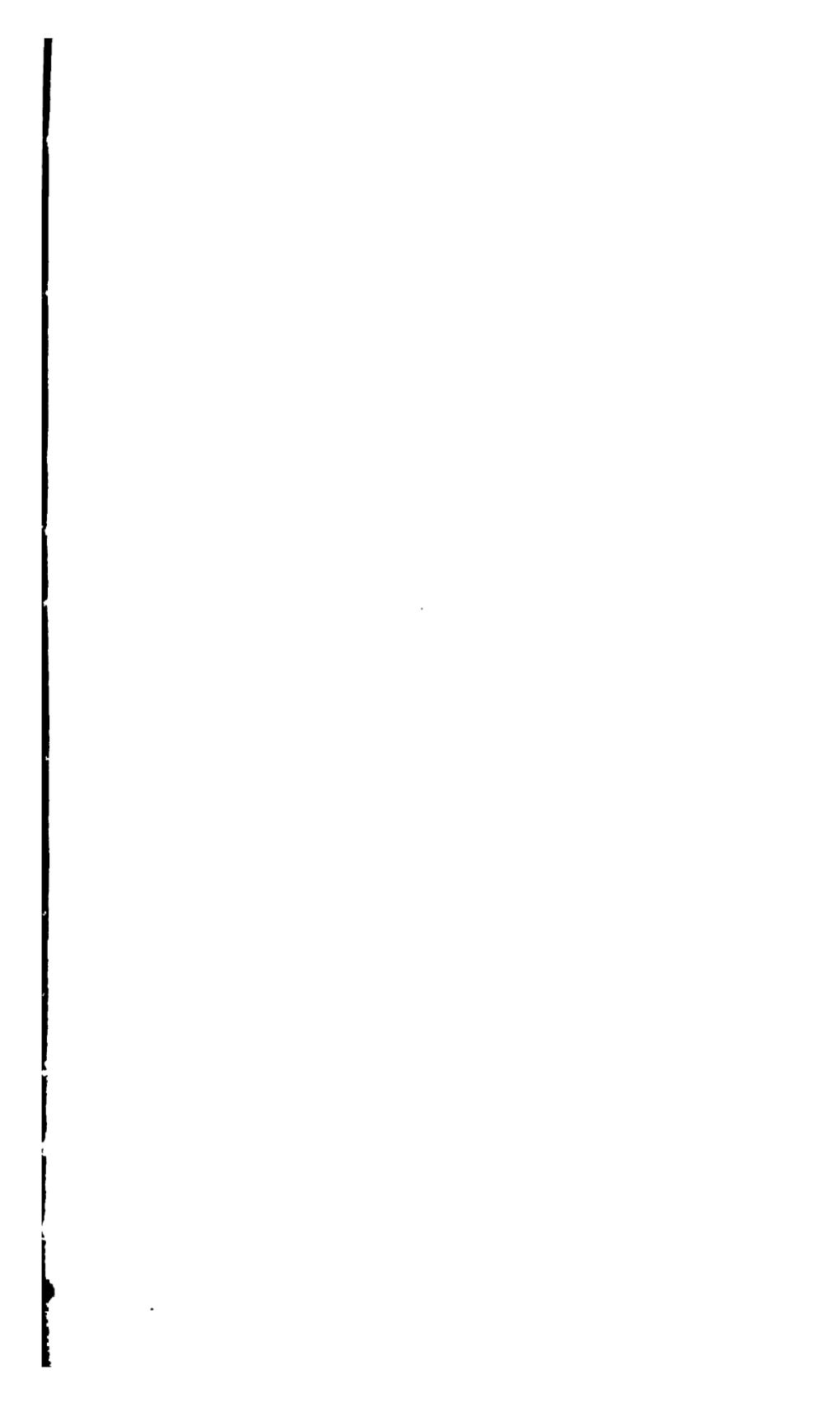
King in the room of Richard, by the title of Henry the Fourth.

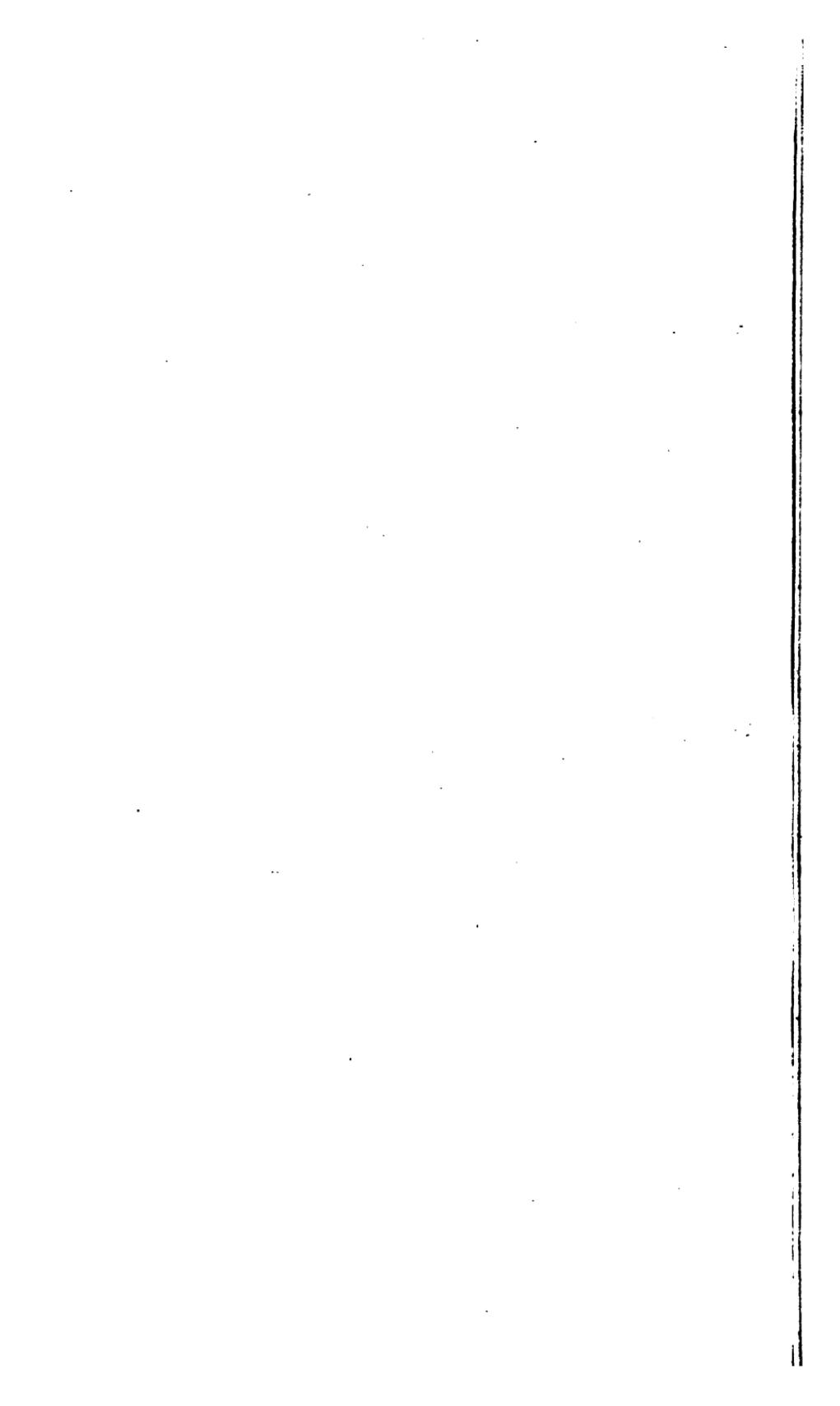
The deposed Prince was soon after confined in the castle of Pontefract ; but he remained not long in the hands of his barbarous and sanguinary enemies ; for not satisfied with having robbed him of his crown, they soon took from him his life also. It was the prevailing opinion that Sir Piers Exton, to whose charge he was committed, and some of his guards, fell upon him and dispatched him with their halberts ; but it is more probable that he was starved to death in prison ; and it is even said, that after all sustenance was denied him, the wretched Monarch languished near a fortnight under the excruciating pangs of hunger, before Death came to his relief. He died in the thirty-fourth year of his age, and the twenty-third of his reign, leaving no posterity.

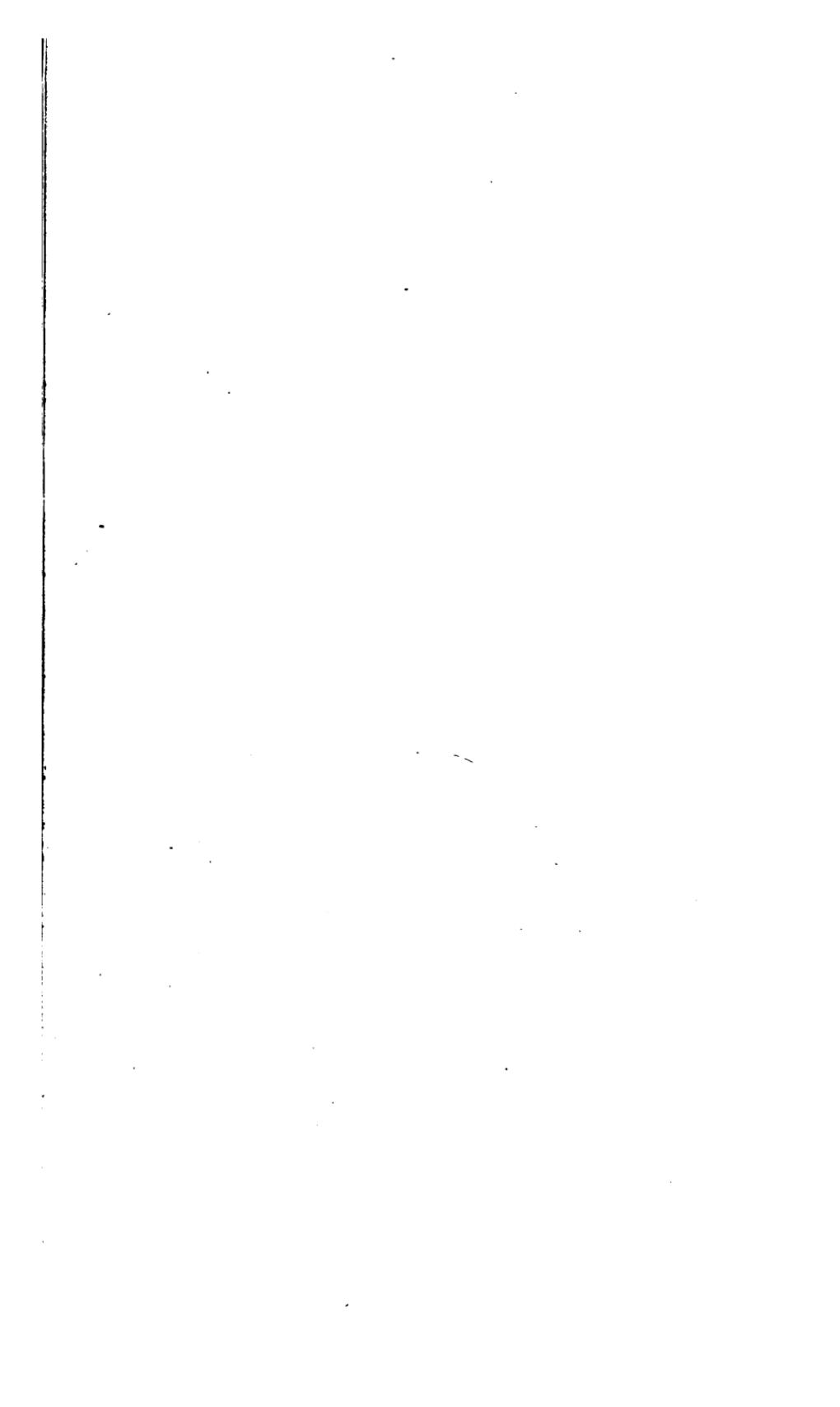
The character of King Richard the Second was nearly a contrast to that of his great Father : violent in his temper, profuse in his expences,

pences, fond of idle shew and magnificence, addicted to pleasure, and devoted to favourites ; he wanted all those heroic qualifications which rendered the Prince of Wales so greatly beloved. But these faults proceeded rather from the levity of youth and the want of judgment, than from incapacity or a bad disposition ; he therefore deserved not the severe treatment he met with from the Duke of Lancaster, except his cruel and perfidious treatment of his Uncle the Duke of Gloucester may be allowed to merit it.

That Prince however received the just recompence of his restless ambition ; for being constantly employed in defending a title which he had surreptitiously obtained, and continually apprehensive from a consciousness of the invalidity of his claim to it, he tasted not of that happiness which his imagination had presented as inseparably annexed to a crown ; but an unquiet reign convinced him, that numberless thorns are entwined with the jewels of an usurped diadem.









MAR 29 1939

